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TAMIL IN 550 A.D.

An Interpretation of Early Inscriptional Tamil

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Contents

0.1. Introduction
0.2. Method of Analysis
1.1. The Text
1.2. English Translation
2.1. List of Simple and Compound Stems
2.2. List of Roots and Their Etyma
3.1. Tagmemes and Constructions
3.2. Morphemes
3.3. Morphophonemics
4.1. Phonemes, Graphemics, Orthography
4.2. Loanwords. Colloquialisms
Appendix
Select Bibliography

0.1. Pallaṅkōvil is a small village in the Tanjavur district of Tamilnad, about four miles from Tirutturaipūṇṭi. While reducing a high level ground, two copper-plate grants were unearthed in the village about 25 years ago, and after passing through several hands, they are now in the possession of Mr. S. Rajam (Murray and Co.) of Madras.

The set consists of five sheets of copper strung in a ring of the same metal; the record consists of two parts, one in Sanskrit, composed in verse and written in Grantha (26 lines), the other of 38 lines of Tamil prose in early Tamil Pallava script. The immediate object of the grant is to register the gift of landed property to a Jaina religious teacher by name of Vajranandi of Paruttikkunril to meet the expenses of worship. The Tamil portion says that it was King Vijaya Simhavarman who made the gift in the sixth year of his reign, and in the Sanskrit portion, Simhavarman is said to have been the father of Simhavishnu. The only king known to us bearing the name of Simhavishnu among the Pallavas is probably the father of the famous Mahendravarman.

Since the present author is neither an epigraphist nor a palaeographer but a linguist, he has to accept the dating provided on historical, epigraphic and palaeographic lines of evidence suggested by other scholars.

The period of rule of Mahendravarman I is generally placed in the first quarter of the 7th cent. A.D. The reign of his son Narasimhavarman I who defeated the Western Chalukyas in cca 642 should have commenced in cca 630 A.D. The period of reign of his

famous father, Mahendravarman I, may be thus assigned roughly to 575-630, and the reign of Simhavishnu to cca 550-575 A.D. The grant was issued in the sixth year of Simhavarman which means that the date of the grant will fall in the second quarter of the sixth century, b e f o r e 5 5 0 A. D. This conclusion is obviously supported also by palaeography.

With the exception od the Hybrid Tamil Brahmi labels in natural caverns and on Arikamedu ware, and of the short Tirunatharkunram epitaph, the earliest Tamil inscriptions known so far belong to the rule of Mahendravarman I (575-630). This means that the record under scrutiny is t h e e a r l i e s t i m p o r t a n t T a m i l i n s c r i p t i o n obtained so far. Since it is an inscription of 30 lines in Tamil prose, we have here, at the same time, the first more or less safely dated piece of Tamil p r o s e . The enormous importance of this text for historical Tamil linguistics is self-evident.

Therefore, utmost care was given to a detailed linguistic analysis of this inscription, and the results of the analysis are presented in this work.

The inscription was carefully published by T.N. Subramaniam in the Transactions of the Archaeological Society of South India for the year 1958-59, pp. 41-83.

Nevertheless, two remarks should be added here as far as the emendation of the text is concerned. In 1.33, on p.79, the form nāṭṭiṟku is given by the editor. However, Plate XIV (3rd plate - 2nd side, line 33) shows clearly that the reading of the original must be nāṭṭăṟkŭ and nothing else.

In 1.58, on pp.77, in the English transcription, the editor has mullēri; on p.80, in 1.58, in the Tamil script, he has mulleṟi; this reading is undoubtedly the right one, cf. Plate XV, 5th pl.- 1st side, line 58.

0.2. The scope of this description is an almost total representation of the language of the inscription, starting from the high-level unit of the text as a whole and proceding to the low-level unit of the phoneme, or rather its graphemic representation. The theory on which the description is based is set forth by Kenneth L. Pike, Robert Longacre, Velma B. Pickett and Benjamin Elson[1]/. This theory views all units of the language as trimodally structured. That is, any unit has a feature mode, which includes its identificational-contrastive characteristics; a manifestation mode, which includes its physical characteristics, the actual variants which may be heard (here, seen); and a distribution mode, which includes correlational units of functional, distributional slots and classes which fill them. The feature mode is the lexical hierarchy of which the morpheme is the basic unit; the manifestation mode is the phonological hierarchy, of which the phoneme is its basic unit; and the distribution mode is the grammatical hierarchy, of which the tagmeme is the basic unit.

Tagmeme is a unit consisting of a functional (distributional) slot plus the class which fills this slot. The functional slot, or, substitution point, does not exist apart from some item or sequence of items filling the slot and, vice versa, a class of items has no reality apart from the occurrence at some substitution points.

The concept of the tagmeme is applied at various levels;

the analytical levels include, for Tamil, root, stem, word, phrase, clause and sentence, and probably some levels above these and maybe even between these. As may be seen, a morphology-syntax division is initially not necessary, and uniform procedures are applied throughout "the range" of grammatical levels. But it seems that in Tamil it is possible to recognize the distinction between word and phrase levels as a morphology-syntax division.

The structure of language is inherent to the language and, as a system of communication, language is made up of forms which have meaning. Therefore, the structures described here are presented as form-meaning composites, according to the meaning they carry.

Included in the presentation are the tagmemes, that is the functional slots plus the morpheme classes which fill the functional slots (or manifest the tagmemes); a brief note is made on the morphophonemic rules and on the phonemes or rather their graphemic representation. A list of simple and compound stems is appended as well as a list of roots, since it is considered necessary to connect this work with historical and comparative studies, particularly with the prolegomena to a historical grammar of Tamil which is under preparation in Prague and Moscow.

Mathematical symbols: + obligatory occurence, $\pm$ optional occurence, / alternative fillers, : slot: class correlation, ( ) complex filler of a single slot, $\rightleftarrows$ points to extra-linguistic ties and relations. Classes of fillers which are phrases or clauses are symbolized by capital letters; if single words, by small letters; slot names are indicated by capital letters.

Tagmemic symbols and other abbreviations:

Act:	Action Slot
adj	adjective
adv part	adverbial participle
Appos:	Appositional Slot
C	consonant
Cl	Clause
Compl:	Complement Slot
Con:	Connector Slot
Coord:	Coordination Slot, Coordinator Tagmeme
CT	Colloquial Tamil
Dep Cl	Dependent Clause
dis	derivational-inflectional suffix
ds	derivational suffix
Ell P	Elliptic Predicate
Emph Mod:	Emphasis Modifying Slot
Foc:	Focus Slot
Foc Loc:	Focus Location Slot
Foc Man:	Focus Manner Slot
H:	Head Slot
Hort Cl	Hortative Clause
Incl Cl	Included Clause
Ind Cl	Independent Clause
Instr:	Instrument Slot
Intrans	Intransitive
is	inflectional suffix
It:	Item Slot
Loc:	Location Slot

Loc Dir:	Location Direction Slot
Loc Mod:	Location Modifier Slot
Man:	Manner Slot
Mod:	Modifier Slot
n	noun
nc	noun-core
n comp	compound noun
n dat	noun in dative
n loc	noun in locative
nom	nominalizer
Nphr	Noun phrase
nr	noun-root
ns	noun-stem
O:	Object Slot
Obj Mod:	Object Modifier Slot
Orient:	Orienter Slot
Orient Loc:	Orienter Location Slot
Orient Man:	Orienter Manner Slot
P:	Predicate Slot
pron	pronoun
Qual:	Qualifier Slot
Qual Ident:	Qualifier Identifier Slot
Qual Lim:	Qualifier Limiter Slot
Qual Poss:	Qualifier Possession Slot
Qual Qual:	Qualifier Quality Descriptive Slot
Qual Quant:	Qualifier Quantifier Slot
Qual Sub:	Qualifier Substance Descriptive Slot
Quot:	Quotation Slot
R	Root

Rec:	Recipient Slot
S:	Subject Slot
Subj Mod:	Subject Modifier Slot
Spec:	Specifier Slot
Statem	Statement
Ti Seq:	Time Sequence Slot
Trans	Transitive
V	Vowel
Verb Mod:	Verb Modifier Slot
v fin	finite verb
v opt	optative verb
Vphr	Verb phrase
v rel part	verb relative participle

1.1. Text of the Tamil Portion

(Third Plate - First Side)

27 kovicaiya siṁhavarmmaṟku yāṇṭāṟāvatu ven
28 kuṉṟak koṭṭattup perunakara nāṭṭu nāṭṭār
29 kāṅka tan nāṭ aman cerkkai parutti
30 kkuṉṟil vajranandikkuravarkkup paḷḷic cantamā
31 kak koṭutton tāṅkaḷum paṭākai naṭantu kal
32 luṅ kaḷḷiyun nāṭṭi araiyolai ceytu ko

(Third Plate - Second Side)

33 ṭuttu viṭutakavenṟu nāṭṭārkkut tirumukam viṭa nāṭṭā
34 run tirumukaṅkaṇṭu toḻutu talaikku vaittu paṭā
35 kainaṭa(n)tu kalluṅ kaḷḷiyu nāṭṭi nāṭṭār viṭunta
36 araiyolaippaṭikkellai kīḻapā

37 lellai enta leriyiṉkīḻaik kaṭaṟṟi
38 ṉ meṟkumomaik kollai ellai iṉṉu
39 m teṉpālellai veḷvaṭukaṉ keṇiyi
40 ṉ vaṭakkum kaṭaṟṟiṉellai iṉṉun nīlapāṭi

(Fourth Plate - First Side)

41 ellai iṉṉum vilāṭaṉ kuṟṟettattellai
42 iṉṉum melpālellai māvettattu
43 vaṭiyiṉ kiḻakkum mummūlaiettattellai
44 iṉṉu māṟṟellai iṉṉum vaṭapālel
45 lai peruṅkollaiyiṉ ṟeṟku iṉṉum
46 pāṇṭiyaṉ kayattellai iṉṉum murukkaṅ
47 keṇi ellai ivvicaitta perunāṅkel
48 lai yakattu makappaṭṭa nilam nīr nilamum

(Fourth Plate - Second Side)

49 puṉceyyum kaḷarum kaṉṟumeypāḻum kāṭu
50 m pīṭilikaiyum kiṭaṅkuṅ keṇiyum maṉai
51 yum maṉaippaṭappum uṭumpoṭi āmai tava
52 ḻnta tellām uṇṇila ṉoḻiviṉṟi
53 kovum poṟiyum māṟṟi kuṭiṉīkki ivvūr
54 peṟṟa vajranandikkuravarkke palliccantamāka tā
55 marilum patiṉāṟaraippaṭṭi nilaṅ koṭut
56 tom iṉṉilattiṟ kellai kīḻpāle

(Fifth Plate - First Side)

57 llai pulikiḻārpaṭṭiyiṉ meṟkum teṉpā
58 lellai muḷḷeṟi pāttellaiyiṉ vaṭa
59 kkum melpālellai pokkuvāyccerṟu

60 viṉ kiḻakkum vaṭapālellai pallāṅku
61 ḻikkāviṉ teṟkkum iṉṉāṉkellai
62 yakattum akappaṭṭa bhūmiyum paruttik kuṉṟi
63 l vajranandikkuravarkke palliccantamāka parada
64 tti ceṉṟatu narabhayaṉāṉattiyāl si (ddham?)

1.2. English Translation[2]

In the sixth year of the reign of king Vijaya Simhavarman the king has issued a royal order to the members of the assembly of the nāṭu saying: "Let the members of the assembly of the nāṭu of Perunakaranāṭu, a sub-division of Veṅkuṉṟakkōṭṭam observe! We have granted the village of Amaṇcērkkai in your own nāṭu as palliccantam to the teacher Vajranandi of Paruttikkuṉṟil. You also, having walked around the paṭākai, planted stones and milk-bush and having made the order for proclamation let you issue it!" And the members of the assembly of the nāṭu having seen the royal order, having made obeisance and placed it on their heads, having walked around the boundaries of the paṭākai, planted stones and milk-bush. The boundaries according to the order of proclamation issued by (the members of the assembly of) the nāṭu (are as follows): The eastern boundary (is) the boundary of the garden of tooth-brush tree and to the west of the jungle (on) the eastern side of the tank Ēntalēri. Again the southern boundary (is) the boundary of the small picottah of Vilāṭaṉ, and also the boundary of (the village) Nīlapāṭi, and also the boundary of the jungle, and to the north of the well of Vēlvaṭukaṉ. Further, the western boundary (is) the boundary od the river and also the boundary of water-lift at three-corner and to the east of the pathways of the great

picottah. Again the nothern boundary (is) the boundary of the tank of palā trees, and also the boundary of Pāntiyan's tank, and also to the south of the great garden. The land situated within the four great boundaries thus described - wet lands, dry lands, brackish land, the waste land where calves graze, forest, pīṭilikai, ditches, wells, houses, house-gardens - and all the land icluded where iguana runs and tortoise crawls, without exclusion, having changed the kingship and authority, having removed the tenants, (was given).

To the same teacher Vajranandi who received this village we gave sixteen and a half patti of land as palliccantam also in the village Tamar. The boundaries of this land (are): The eastern boundary (is) to the west of Pulikilārpatti; and the southern boundary to the north of the boundary of Mulleripāttu; and the western boundary to the east of Pokkuvāyccerruvu; and the northern boundary to the south of Pallāṅkulikkāvu. And the land situated within these four boundaries (was given) to the same teacher Vajranandi of Paruttikkunril. Paradatti was made with the executorship of Narabhayan. Suc(cess)!

2.1. List of Simple and Compound Stems

akappatu v. comp. to be situated, placed, occur; akappatta 48,62
akam s. interior; akattu 48,62; aka- 48,62
aman < śramaṇa ? s. Jainism, Jains; amancerkkai 29
amancerkkai s. comp. loc. name of a village 29[3]
arai s. half; patinārarai 55
arai v. sound, say, speak, tell; araiyolai 32, 36
araiyolai s. comp. order of proclamation 32, 36

āku v. to be, exist, happen, come into existence; āvatu in ārāvatu 27, āka 30-1, 54, 63
āṇatti s. order, command, executorship (T.N.S.), lw. Pkt. āṇatti, cf. Skt ājñapti; āṇattiyāl 64
āmai s. tortoise 51
ārāvatu s. num. ord. 27
āru$_1$ s.num.six; ārāvatu 27, patinārarai 55
āru$_2$ s.river; ārru 44

i pron. adj. this; innum 38-9,40,41,42,44,45,46, iv - 47,53, in - 56,61
icai v. sound, say, describe, express; icaitta 47
il$_1$ s. house, home, place; paruttikkunril 29-30
il$_2$ v. def. be not; inri 52
innum part. adv. yet more, besides, again; 38-9,40,41,42,44,45,46

uṭumpu s. iguana, Varanus bengalensis 51
-um part. encl. and, even; 31,32,34,45,38-9,40,43,48,49,50,51, 53,55,57,59,60,61,62; innum 38-9,40,41,42,44,45,46
uḷ s. interior; unnilan 52
ūr s. village; ivvūr 53

-e encl. emph. part., the same; even; kuravarkke 54,63
ettam s. picottah, water-lift; kurrettattu 41, māvettattu 42, ettattu 43
entaleri s. comp. loc. name of a lake or tank 37
eri s. lake, tank; entaleri 37
ellām adj. num. all, entire 52
ellai s. boundary, limit; 36,37,38,39,40,41,42,43,44,44-5,46,47, 47-8,56,57,58,59,60,61

eṟi s. throw, kick? lustre? muḷḷeṟi 58

eṉ v. say, utter, express; eṉṟu 33

oṭu v. run; oṭi 51

olai s. palm-leaf; writing on a palm-leaf; ēṭṭaiyolai 32,36

omai s. tooth-brush tree; mango-tree 38

oḻi v. cease, be finished, ended; oḻivu 52

kaṭaṟu s. forest, jungle; kaṭaṟṟiṉ 37-8,40

kayam s. tank; kayattu 46

kal s. stone 31-2,35

kaḷar s. brackish land, saline soil 49

kaḷḷi s. milk-bush 31-2,35

kaṉṟu s. calf 49

kāṭu s. forest, jungle 49

kāṇ v. see, observe; kāṇka 29, kaṇṭu 34

kāvu s. park; kāviṉ 61

kiṭaṅku s. ditch, trench 50

kiḻakku s. east; to the east 43,60

kiḻār s. old man, chief, headman; puḷḷikiḻārpaṭṭi 57

kīḻ adj. eastern, s. east 56 adj.

kīḻa adj. eastern 36

kīḻai s. east, to the east 37

kuṭi s. tenants 53

kuravar s. priest, preceptor, religious teacher; lw.Skt guravaḥ pl. guru; vajṟanandikkuravarkku 30, vajṟanandikkuravarkke 54,63

kuḻi s. hole, pit; paḷḷāṅkuḻi 60-1

kuṟu adj. short, small; kuṟṟettattu 41

kuṉṟam s. hill; veṅkuṉṟakkoṭṭattu 27-8

kuṉṟu s. hill; paruttikkuṉṟil 29-30

keṇi s. well, tank, lake; keṇiyiṉ 39-40, murukkaṅkeṇi 46-7,50

ko s. king; kovicaiya 27,53

koṭu v. give; koṭutton 31; koṭuttu 32-3; koṭuttom 55-6

koṭṭam s. administrative division, district, region; cf. kōṭu, or lw. Skt koṣṭha-; veṅkuṉṟakkoṭṭattu 27-8

kollai s. backyard, enclosure, garden, field 38; kollaiyiṉ 45

cantam s. 1.pleasure, happiness, enjoyment (T.N.Subramaniyam), cf. Skt chanda- ; 2. = contam (P.B. Desai), cf. Skt sva-tantra; paḷḷiccantam 30,54,63

cey$_1$ s. field; puṉcey 49

cey$_2$ v. do, make, perform; ceytu 32

cerkkai s. fellowship, company, union; gathering, compound; amaṉcerkkai 29

cel v. go,pass,occur,be suitable,pass (as coin); ceṉṟatu 64

ceṟuvu s. field; ceṟuviṉ 59-60

talai s. head; talaikku 34

taval v. crawl, tavaḷntatu 51-2

tāṅkaḷ pron.2.p.honor.you 31

tāmar s.loc.name of a place; tāmariḷ 54-5

tāṉ pron.poss. and refl.; tannāṭ, of your own nāṭu 29

tirumukam s.comp.royal order, lw. Skt śrīmukha-, 33,34

teṟku s. south, to the south 45,61

teṉ s. south 39,57

toḻu v. make obeisance; toḻutu 34

nakaram s. town, city; lw. Skt nagara-; perunakara 28

natu v. walk; natantu 31,35

narabhayan s. male pers. name, lw. Skt narabhaya-, 64

nāṭu s. country, district, province; nāṭṭu 28, nāṭṭār ib., nāṭ 29, nāṭṭār 33, 33-4,35

nāṭṭār s. 1. inhabitants of a country etc.; 2. members of the assembly of a nāṭu 28,33,33-4,35

nāṭṭu v. plant; nāṭṭi 32

nāṉku s. num. four 47,61

nilam s. land 48,55; nilattirku 56

nilaṉ s. land 52

nīkku v. remove; nīkki 53

nīr s. water, humidity, wetness 48

nīlapāṭi s. male pers. name, or local name 40

paṭappu s. enclosure, garden; maṉaippaṭappu 51

paṭākai s. division of a country; a cluster of cottages at some distance from a village, erected for the convenience of carrying on agricultural operations (TL); lw. Skt paṭākā; 31,34-5

paṭi s. step; paṭikku, according to 36

paṭu v. occur, happen; agree to, be connected with; akappaṭṭa 48,62

paṭṭi$_1$ s. a measure of land, as sufficient for a sheep-fold (TL),55

paṭṭi$_2$ s. hamlet, village; pulikiḻārpaṭṭiyiṉ 57

paṭiṉāṟu s. num. comp. sixteen; paṭiṉāṟarai 55

paṭṭu, obq. paṭiṉ-, s. num. ten; paṭiṉāṟarai 55

paradatti s. Indian cotton plant (Gossypium herbaceum); peruttikkuṉṟil 29,30,62-3

paruttikkuṉṟil s. comp.loc.name, "the place of the cotton-plant hill", 29-30,62-3[5]/

pallāṅkuḻi s. comp. the game played with cowries etc. on a pallāṅkuḻi(which is) a thick plank with 14 hollows (TL) < paṉṉāṅkukuḻi < paṭiṉāṅku kuḻi "14 holes"; 60-1

palli s. temple, monastery, school (Jaina or Buddhist), cf. Skt palla, palli; palliccantam 30,54,63

palliccantam s. comp. that which is for the enjoyment of the palli (T.N.Subramaniam) or whatever is owned by a palli (P.B.Desai), 30,54,63

pāṇṭiyaṉ s. dynastic name, Pāṇḍya 46

pāttu v. divide, distribute; pāttu v.n. dividing, share, division, section, in muḷḷeṟipāttu 58

pāl s. part, portion; 36-7,39,42,44-5,56,57-8,59,60

pīṭilikai s. the land on which the sanctuary stands (T.N.Subramaniyam), IA lw. *pīṭhilikā ? 50[6]/

puli s. tiger; pulikiḻārpaṭṭiyiṉ 57

pulikiḻārpaṭṭi s. comp.loc.name of a village; pulikiḻārpaṭṭiyiṉ 57

puncey s. root-comp., cf. puṉ-a-m DED 3558, dry land 49

peru adj. big; perunakaranāṭṭu 28, peruṅkollaiyiṉ 45,47

perunakanaranāṭu s. comp. name of a region; perunakaranāṭṭu 28[7]/

peṟu v. receive, obtain; perra 54

pokku s. hollow, hole, defect; pokkuvāyccerruvin 59-60

pokkuvāy s. comp. toothless mouth; pokkuvāyccerruviṉ 59-60

pokkuvāyccerruvu s. comp.loc.name, "the field of a toothless mouth (-ed man?)"; pokkuvāyccerruviṉ 59-60

poṟi s. mark, sign, token (of authority) 53

bhūmi s. land, Skt bhūmi - ; 62

maṉai s. house 50; maṉaippaṭappu 51

maṉaippaṭappu s. comp. house-garden 51

mā adj. great; māvettattu 42

mārru v. change; mārri 53

mū - adj. num. three; mummūlai 43

murukku s. palā-tree (Butea frondosa); murukkaṅkeṇi 46-7

muḷ s. thorn,brier,thistle; fork,sharpness; muḷḷeṟipāttu 58

muḷḷeṟipāttu s. comp.loc.name; 58

mūlai s. corner; mummūlai 43

me�yv. graze 49

mel s. west 42,59

merku s. west, to the west 38,57

yāṇṭu s. year 27

vajranandi s. male pers. name, low. Skt, 30,54,63

vaṭa adj.northern 44,60

vaṭakku s. north, to the north 40,58-9

vaṭukaṉ s. inhabitant of the northern (Telugu?) country;
velvaṭukaṉ 39-40

vaṭi s. way, path; lw? cf. Skt path, pathi, pathin; vaṭiyiṉ 43

vāy s. mouth; pokkuvāycceruviṉ 59-60

vicaiya s. pers. name, lw. Skt vijaya-; kovicaiya 27

viṭu v. despatch, release, give, bestow; viṭutaka 33, viṭa 33,
viṭunta 35

vilātaṉ s. male pers. name 41

veṉ adj. white; veṉkuṉṟakkoṭṭattu 27-8

veṉkuṉṟakkoṭṭam s. comp. name of a province; veṉkuṉṟakkoṭṭattu
27-8/

vel s. petty ruler, chief, name of a class of ancient chiefs;
member of the vēḷāḷa caste; velvaṭukaṉ 39-40

velvaṭukaṉ s. comp. male pers. name, or name of a tribe or any
other ethnic group, perhaps "Northener of Chāḷūkya
descent"; velvaṭukaṉkeṇiyiṉ 39-40

vaiv. place, put; vaittu 34

si (ḍdham)? s. lw. Skt siddha-; success; usual filler of closer-
slot in inscriptions; 64

siṁhavarmmaṉ s. male pers. name, lw. Skt siṁhavarma -; siṁhavarm-
maṟku 27

2.2. List of Roots and Their Etyma

2.2.1. All PDr roots are monosyllables. Two main types of root-morphemes may be set up: light bases of the type (C)V and (C)VC, and heavy bases, of the type (C)V̄ and (C)V̄C.

2.2.2. List of roots according to their canonical forms.

2.2.21. Light bases

2.2.211. Type (C)V

Ta.i - dem. base, this; Ma.Ko.To.Ka.Koḍ.Tu.Te.Kol.Nk.Pa.Ga.Go. Konḍa,Kui,Kuwi,Kur.Malt. i-, Br. dā-. PDr.*i-/Ī-.

Ta.po - to perforate; Ma.Ko.Kol.Nk.Go.Kui po-, Ka.Tu.Te.bo-, Kuwi po-/pō-. PSDr & PCDr* po-.

2.2.212. Type (C)VC

Ta.ak - inside; Ma.ak-, Ko.Kod. a-ŋ-,To.wïrx-, Ka.ag-,a-ñ-,Tu.a-ñ- Te.ag-, ak-. PSDr *ak-.

Ta.ar- half; Ma.Ko.To.Ka.Tu.Te.ar - . PSDr.* ar -.

Ta.ar - to speak; Ka.Te.ar-. Kol.ra-z-, Kui ra-s-, cf.Ka.ra-mp-a, PSDr & PCDr * ar-.

Ta.ic - to sound; Ma iy-, Kui es-, cf. Ta iy-. PSDr & PCDr *ic-/iy- < *ic-.

Ta-il - house; Ma.Kod.Tu.Te.Pa.Go.Konḍa,Kuwi il-, Kol.Nk.el-, Kui id-, PSDr & PCDr *il-.

Ta-il - neg., be not; non-existence; Ma.To.Ka.Kod.il , Tu-ij-, Te.lē-, Pa.Malt.cil-, Go.hil-,sil-,Konḍa sil-,Kui sid-, Kuwi hil-. PSDr *il- < PDr. *cil-.

Ta.ut - iguana; Ma.ut-,Ka.Kod.Te.Kol.Pa. ud-,Tu. ud-,od-,Nk.(h)ur-, Go.urr-, PSDr & PCDr *ut -.

Ta. - um, and.?

Ta. ul - inside; Ma.Ko.To.Ka.Kod.Tu. ul - , Te.Ga.Kur.Malt.ul-,lō-, Kol.lo'-,Nk.lō-,Pa.ol-,Go.lo-,rō-,Br.ur-? us-? PDr*ul-.

Ta. el - all; Ma.Ko.Ka.Kod.Te.Kol.el-, cf. ellai, limit. PSDr & PCDr *el-.

Ta.en - to say; Ma.Ka.Pa.en-,Kod.en(n)-,To.ĭn-,Tu.an-/in-,Te.an-, Kol.en-/in-, Ga.Konḍa,Kui,Kuwi in-,Kur.ān-,Malt.án-. PDr *an-/en-/in- or *yān-/yen-.

Ta.ol - to cease; Ma.ol-,Ka.ul-,Kod.ol-/oy-,Tu.or-/ul- . PSDr *ul-/ol-.

Ta.kay - tank; Ma.Tu.kay- . PTa *kay-.

Ta.kal - stone; Ma.Ko.Ka.Kod.Tu.Te.Konḍa kal-,To.kal-,kaṣ-.Pa.kel-, Ga.kan-ḍ-,Br.khal-. PDr.*kal-.

Ta.kal - saline soil; Ko.kal-,kayl-, Te.kra-; cf.Ta.Ma.kal-id. PSDr* kal-.

Ta.kal - milk-hedge; Ma.Ka.Kod.Tu.Te.kal-. PSDr* kal-.

Ta.ka(n)r - calf; Ma.ka(n)n-, To.kor-, Ka.kar-,Tu.Te.kan-, Pa.kar-,

Ga.karr-, Kur.khadd-,Malt.qad-,Br.khan-,cf.Ta.karrā ; PDr *ka(n)r - < *kan - t/u or *kar - t/u ?

Cf. Ta. kar-a- to milk, give milk.

Ta.kiṭ-aṅku, store-house; Ma.kiṭ-,Ka.giḍ-/gaḍ-,Tu.gaḍ-.Te.giḍ-.

Ta.kil - old age; Ma.kil-,Ka.kel-. PTaKa *kil-.

Ta.kuṭ - house; Ma.kuṭ -, Ko.Kur.Malt. kur-, Te.kwĭs-,kur-, Ka.Br. kuḍ-,guḍ-,Koḍ.kuḍ-,Te.koṭ-. Tu.Kol.Pa.Ga. guḍ-, Kui guḍ-,kur-,kur-. PDr *kuṭ-.

Ta. kul - flute,pipe,hole; Ma.kul-,Ko.kor-,kuy-,To.kwĭ.ṭ-,kus-, Ka.kul-,kol-,Kod.kol-,Tu.kol-,gur-,kor-,Te.krōl-,groy-, Pa.Ga.kur-,Kui krōḍ-,grōḍ-,kr-,kr-,Kuwi gr-. PSDr & PCDr *kul-/kol-.

Ta. ku(n)r- hill; Ma.ku(n)n-,Kur-.To.kŭḍ-.Ka.Te.koṇḍ-,Kod.kund-, Pa.kond-,Go.kur-. PSDr & PCDr *ku(n)r - < *kun-t/u or *kur-t/u?

Ta.koṭ- give; Ma.koṭ-,Ko.kor-,To.kwĭr-,Ka.Koḍ.koḍ-,Tu.kor-, ?Kur.kur- . PSDr *koṭ-.

Ta.kol - enclosure, park.

Ta.cey - to do, make; Ma.cey-,Ko.key-/gey-,To.kĭy-,Ka.Kod.Ga.key-, Tu.geyi-,Te.cēy-,Kol.ka-,Go.kĭ-,kiy-,Kui ki-/gi-, Kuwi ke-,kē-,kĭ-,Br.ka-,kē-. Cf.Ta.kai, hand. PDr *key-.

Ta.cey - field; Ma.cey-,Ka.Tu.key-,Kod.ke-,Te.cē-,Kol.ke-,kē-, Nk.Pa.kē-,Kur.khajj-,Malt.qaj-. PDr *key- < *kay-?

Ta.cel - to go; Ma.cel-,Ko.Kur.cal-,To.Ka.Tu.Kui sal-,Te.cel-/cal-, Kol.ser-,sa-,Nk.ca-,ser-,Pa.cen-,Ga.sen-,Go.han-,son-, Konḍa sol-,Kuwi haj-(hac-),hal-. PDr *cal-.

Ta.cer - to thrive; Ma.cer-. PTa *cer-.

Ta.tal - head; Ma.Ko.To.Ka.Kod.Te.Kol.Nk.Ga.Go.Konḍa,Malt.tal-, Tu.tar-,Pa.tel-,Kui tla-,Kuwi trā-,thrā-. PDr.*tal-.

Ta.tav - to creep; To.tof-,Ka.tev-. PTaKa *tav-.

Ta.ten - south; Ma.Ka.Tu.ten-,Kod.tekk- < *ten-k-. PSDr.ten-.

Ta.tol - to worship; Ma.tol-,Ka.tur-,Kod.to-,Tu.tur-.
PSDr *tol-/tul-.

Ta.nat - to walk; Ma.nat-,Ko.To.nar-.Ka.Kod.Tu.Te.nad-,Kol.ad-,
Nk.ar-.Konda nā- <*ntā-, *ndā-,Kui drā-. PDr *nat-.

Ta.nil - land,ground; Ma.nil-,Ko.To.Ka.Kod.Tu. nel-. PSDr
*nil-/nel-a-.

Ta.pak - to divide; Ma.Malt.pak-,Ko.pa-t-,To.pax-,Ka.Tu.Te.pag-,
Pa.pa-pp,pay-p-,Go.pak-kī,pai(y)-,Kui.papka <*pak-p-,
Nk.payk-,Kuwi pakh-,Kur.pākh-. PDr. *pay-, *pay-k-.

Ta.pat - to lie down; Ma.Go.Kui pat-,Ko.Nk.par-,To.por-,Ka.Kod.
Tu.Te.Kol.Pa.pad-,Ga.par-. PDr. *pat-/*par-.

Ta.pat - to occur,happen;suffer; Ma.pat-,Ko.Nk.par-,To.por-,
Ka.Kod.Tu.Te.Kol.Pa.pad-. Ga.par-. Cf.pat- to lie down.
Cf. also Kui pān-ba,Ta.pāt-u. PDr.*pat-/pāt-/pān- ?.

Ta.pat - step; Ma.pat-,Ko.par-,Ka.Te.pad-. PSDr *pat-.

Ta. patt-hamlet; Ma.Ka.Tu.Te.patt-,Ko.pat-,To.ot-. PSDr *patt- .

Ta.patt-/pat- ten; Ma.patt-,pat-,Ko.pat-,pad-,To.pot- etc.,
Ka.patt-,pad-,Kod.patt-,pad-,Tu.patt-,pad-,Te.pad-,
Kol.pad-,Go.pad- . PSDr and PCDr *patt-/pat-.

Ta.par - cotton; Ma.Kod.Tu.Kui par-,Ka.par-pal-,Te.pra-,Kuwi par- .
PSDr and PCDr *par-/pal-.

Ta.pul - tiger. Ma.Ka.Te.Kol.Nk.Ga.Go.pul-,Ko.puj-,To.püs-,ül-,
Tu.pil-. PSDr & PCDr *pul-.

Ta.pun - upland fit for dry cultivation; Ma.Tu.Te.pun-,Ka.pun-.
PSDr *pun-/pun-.

Ta.per - big; Ma.Ka.Kod.Tu.Te.Kol.Nk.Konda per-,Ko.To.pe-,per-,
Ga.Pa.per-,ber-,Go.pir-,bir-,per-,ber-,Kui ber-,pr-,
Kuwi pad-,pl-,Kur.par-,Br.pir-. PDr *pēr-/per+-V-.

Ta.per - to get, beget; Ma.To.Ka.per-,Ko.Kod.per-,Tu.Pa.ped-,
Te.Kol.Nk.pet-.Cf.Ta.pir- to be born. PSDr & PCDr
*per-/pir-.

Ta.por- sign; Ma.por-. PTa *por-.

Ta.man - house; Ma.Ko.To.Ka.Kod.Tu.man-. PSDr *man- < PDr *man-
(Cf.DED 3914).

Ta.mur - palā tree; Ma.Go.Kur.Malt.mur-,Ka.mul-,Tu.mutt- <*mur-t-,
Te.mōd-,Kol.mod-. PDr. *mur-.

Ta.vat - north; Ma.vat-, Te.vad-,Ka.Kod.Tu.bad-. PSDr. *vat-.

Ta.vai - to put, place; Ma.ve- < vai-,Ko.Nk.vay-,To.poy-,Ka.bay-,
Kod.bey-,Tu.biJ-,Te.vai-,vayi-,vēy-,Kol.vāy-,Ga.va-,
Go.wa-,Kur.bā-,Br.bē-. PDr *vay-/vey-.

Ta.vit - to let, leave; Ma.vit-,Ko.vir-,To.pĭr-,Ka.bid-,Kod.Tu.bud-,
Te.vid-,Go.bir-,Br.bit-. PDr *vit-.

Ta.vel - white; Ma.Ko.vel-,To.pöl-,Ka.bel-,Kod.bol-,Tu.bol-,bol-,
Te.vel-,bel-,Kol.vel-,Pa.Ga.vil-,Go.wēr-,wer-,ver-,
Kui vel-,Kur.Malt.bil-,Br.?-bē-? Cf.Ta.vil- to shine etc.
PDr *vel-/vil-.

2.2.22. Heavy Bases

2.2.221 Type (C)V

Ta.ā-,āy-, to be, become; Ma.Tu.Konda Kui ā-,Ko.Kod. a°-/a°y-,
To.o°-,o°y- Ka.ā-,āy-,Te.a-,ay-,ā-,Nk.Go.Kuwi a-,ā-,
Br.a-. PDr *ā-,āy-.

Ta.-ē, emph. encl.

Ta.kā- to preserve; Ma.Tu.Te.Pa.Ga.Kui,Kuwi kā-,To.ko°-,Ko.Koḍ.
ka.-,Kol.ka-y-,Go.kē-,ke-,Kur.khā-,Br.khwā-,Malt.qá-.
PDr *kā-.

Ta.kō- k ng. Ma.Te.Pa.Ga.kō-,Ko.ko°-. PSDr & PCDr *kō-.

Ta.nī- to separate from;Ma.Ka.nī-,Ko.To.Kod.ni.-,Te.Ī-.PSDr*nī-/Ī-.

Ta.pā - divide, see pak-.

Ta.mā - great; Ma.mā-. PTa*mā-.

Ta.mū-/mu- three; Ma.Ka.Tu.Te.Nk.Pa.Go.Konḍa,Kui mū-,mu-.Ko.To.Kol.
mu°-,mu-,Kur.mū-,nu-,Br-mu. PDr *mū-/mu-.

Ta.mē- excellence, mē-l- that which is over; west; Ma.Ka.mē-,
Ko.Koḍ.me.-, To.me.-l-,Tu.mē-l,Te.mē-li,cf.Ta.mic-ai.
PSDr *mē- < *mic-ay.

2.2.222. Type (C)V̄C

Ta.ār- six; Ma.Ka.Te.ār-,Ko.Koḍ.a°r-,To.o°r-,Tu.āj-,Go.sār-,
hār-, Kui sāj-,saj-. PSDr & PCDr *cār-.

Ta.ūr - place of habitation; Ma.Ka.Te.Tu.Nk.ūr-,Ko.To.Koḍ.Kol.
u°r-, Br.ur-. PDr.*ūr-.

Ta.ēr - tank; Ma.Ka.Tu.ēr-,Kod.e°r-,PSDr. *ēr-.

Ta.ēr - to rise; Ma.Ka.ēr-,Ko.e°r-.To.ō°r-,Kod.ē°r-,Te.ēt-,rē-,
Kol.le°-,Nk.lē-,Kuwi re -. PSDr & PCDr *ēr -.

Ta.ōt - run; Ma.ōt-,Ko.o°r-,To.wī.ḍ-,Ka.Tu.Te.ōḍ-,Koḍ.o.ḍ-,
? Go.sōḍ-.,?Kuwi hōt-. PSDr *ōt- < PDr.? *cōt- .

Ta.ōm - tooth-brush tree.

Ta.ōl - palm-leaf; Ma.Ka.Tu.ōl-,Ko.Koḍ.o°l-,To.wa°l-. PSDr.*ōl-.

Ta.kāṭ - jungle; Ma.kāṭ-,Ko.ka°r-,To.ko°r-,Ka.Tu.Te.kāḍ-,Koḍ.
ka°ḍ-,Kol. -gaḍ-,-gaṛ-. Cf.Ta.kaṭ-a-ṟu,kaṭ-a-m,forest.
PSDr & PCDr * kāṭ-/kaṭ - V - .

Ta.kāṇ-/kaṇ- to see; Ma.Ka.Tu.kāṇ-,Ko.Koḍ.ka°ṇ-,To.ko°ṇ-,
Te.ken-/kān-,Kol.Nk.Pa.Ga.kaṇ-ḍ-,Kur.khaṇ-ṇ-,
Br.khan-, cf.kaṇ-ey. PDr.*kāṇ-/kaṇ-+ C.

Ta.kīḻ - place below; east; Ma.Ka.kīḻ-,Ko.ki°r-,To.ki°-,Kod.kī°ḻ-,
Tu.kīḻ-,Te.krī-,kīḍ-,Pa.kir-,Kur.kiy-,Br.ki-,kī-,kē-,kēr-.
Cf.Ta.kiḻ-a-. PDr *kīḻ-/kiḻ-V-.

Ta.kēṇ - well; Ma.Ka.kēṇ-. PTaKa kēṇ-.

Ta.cēr- to become united; Ma.Te.cēr-,Ko.ce°r-,To.sō°r-,Kod.se°r-,
Tu.sēr-,? Kol.ser-,?Nk.sér-,Go.sēr-,sēr-,?Kui ser-,
Kuwi hēr-,? Kur.ker-,? Br.kēb-. Cf.Ta.cār-. PSDr *cēr-/cār-.
PSDr & PCDr *cēr-.

Ta. tāṇ-/taṇ- he, himself; self; Ma.Ka.Tu.Te.Pa.Ga.Kui,Kuwi,Kur.
Malt.tān-,Ko.Koḍ.ta°ṇ-,To.to°n,Kol.ta°ṇ-,Go.tan-,Br.tēn-.
PDr *tāṇ-/taṇ-/+Ċ, where - ṇ = sg.morpheme in oppos. to
pl.-m in PDr *tām-/tam-+ C.

Ta.nāṭṭ- to fix, plant; Ma.nāṭṭ-,Ka.Tu.Te.nāṭ-,Ko.Koḍ.na°ṭ-,
PSDr *nāṭṭ- < *nāṭ-ṭ- .

Ta.nāṭ - country; Ma.nāṭ-,Ko.na°r-,To.no°r-,Ka.Tu.Te.nāḍ-,
Kod.na°ḍ-.Go.nār-,Konḍa nār-,Kui nā-j-,nāṭ-,nḍ-, Kuwi
na-iy-,na-j-. PSDr & PCDr *nāṭ- .

Ta.nāl- four; Ma.Ka.Tu.Te.Nk.Pa.Ga.Go.Konḍa,Kui nāl-, Ko.Koḍ.Kol.
na°l-,To.no°-,nal-,Kur.nākh-. PDr *nāl-.

Ta.nīr-,Īr- water,moisture; Ma.Ka.nīr-,Īr-,Ko.To.Kod.ni°r-,Tu.Te.
Pa.Ga.Kui nīr-, Kol.i.r-,Nk.Īr-,Br.dīr-. PDr *nīr-/Īr-.

Ta.pāl - portion. Ma.Ka.Tu.Te.pāl-,Ko.Koḍ.pa°l-,To.po°l-,Pa.pēl-.
Cf.Ta.pak-,pak-al. PSDr *pāl - < *pak-al.

Ta.pāḻ - ruin,desolation. Ma.Ka.pāḻ-,Ko.pa°y-,To.po°y-,Koḍ.pa°ḻ-.
Tu.pāḻ-,Te.pāḍ-; cf.Ta.paḻ-a-old; PSDr *pāḻ-/paḻ-V-.

Ta. mār -to change,be altered; Ma.Ka.Te.mār-,Ko.Kod.ma·r-,
To.mo·r-,Tu.mār-,Kui mār-;Go.mār-,mār-; Kui mās-,
Kuwi mās-;Mlt.mār-. ? Br.matt-. PDr. *mār-.

Ta.mūl - corner; Ma.Ka.Tu.Te.Kol.Pa.Kuwi mūl-,Ko.To.Kod.mu·l-,
Kui mūj-, PSDr & PCDr *mūl-.

Ta.mēy -to graze; Ma.Ka.Kod.Tu.Te.Pa.mēy-,Ko.me·y-,To.mi·y-,
Kol.mi·-,Nk.miy-,Go.mēī-,Kuwi mey-,Kur.men-,Malt.men-,
min-,Br.bei-. PDr *mēy - < *mec-.

Ta.yā(n)t - year; Ma.ānt-.Ko.a·r-,To.o·r-,Ka.ēd-,Kod.a·nd-,Tu.-od-,
Te.ēd-,Kol.e·d-,Nk.-er-,Pa.-ad-,Ga.-ānd-,Go.yēnd-,
Konda - ōnd-, Kui ānd-. PSDr & PCDr *yā(n)d-/yē(n)d-.

Ta.yām-/am- tortoise; Ma.Ka.ām-,Ko.e·m-,Kod.a·m-,Tu.ēm-,Te.tām-,
Go.hem-,Kui sēm-,Kuwi tām-. PSDr *yām-/yēm-, PSDR &
PCDr *yām-/yēm-,cām-/cēm-.

Ta.yār - river; Ma.ār-,Ko.e·r-,Te.Konda ēr-,Pa.ed-,Go.ēr-,yār-,
Kui ēs-,Kuwi ēy-. PSDr & PCDr *yār-/yēr-.

Ta.vāy - mouth; Ma.Te.Pa.vāy-,Ko.va·y,To.po·y-,Ka.Tu.bāy-,
Kod.ba·y-,Kol.bāy-,Kur.baī-,Br.bā-(cf.Ma.vā-).PDr *vāy-.

Ta.vel - petty rule; name of a tribe or clan; Kur.bēl-,bel-.
Cf.Ta.vellālan. PDr.*vēl-.

The following PDr roots have thus been reconstructed:

* ā, āy- to be, become;
* ān-/en-/in- or * yān-/yen- to say;
* i-/ī- this;
* ul- inside;
* ūr- place of habitation;
* kal- stone;

* ka(n)r - calf;
* kā- to preserve;
* kan-/kān-C to see;
* kīl- / kil-V place below;
* kut - house;
* key - < * kay - field;
* cal - to go;
* cōt - to run;
* tal - head;
* tān- / tan- C he;
* tām -/ tam -C they;
* nat - walk;
* nāl - four;
* nīr -/ īr- water;
* pat- /par- to lie down;
* pat- /pāt- /pān- to occur; suffer;
* pay-, pay-k - to divide;
* pēr- /per- big;
* man - house;
* mār - to change;
* mur - palā tree;
* mū -/mu - three;
* mēy - < * mec - to graze;
* vay -/ vey- to put, place;
* vāy - mouth;
* vit - to let;
* vel -/vil - white;
* vēl - name of a tribe or clan.

The following PSDr cum PCDr roots have been reconstructed:

* ar - to speak;
* ic -/iy - to sound;
* il - house;
* uṭ - iguana;
* el - all;
* ēr - to rise;
* kāṭ- /kaṭ- jungle;
* kul -/ kol- flute;
* ku(n)r - hill;
* cār - six;
* cēr - to become united;
* nāṭ - country;
* paṭṭ - /paṭ- ten;
* par -/pal- cotton;
* pul - tiger;
* mūl - corner;
* yā(n)ṭ - / yē(n)ṭ - year;
* yām -/yēm, or *cām-/cēm- tortoise;
* yār - / yēr - river.

The following PSDr roots have been reconstructed:

* ak - inside;
* el - limit;
* ēr - tank;
* ōl - palm-leaf;
* kal - saline soil;
* kaḷ - milk-hedge;

* koṭ - to give;
* ten - south;
* tol -/tul - to worship;
* nāṭṭ - < * nāṭ -t- to fix; plant;
* nil- /nel- a ground;
* nī -/ī - to separate;
* paṭ - step;
* paṭṭ - hamlet;
* pāl - < *pak-al- portion;
* pāl- /pal-V to ruin;
* pun -/ puṉ- dry cultivation;
* mē - < *mic-ay thing above;
* vaṭ- north.

The following PTaKa roots have been reconstructed:

* kil - old age; *kēṉ - well; *tav- to creep; the following PTa roots were reconstructed: * kay- in kay-a-m, tank; *cer - to thrive; * por- in por-i, sign; * mā - great.

For the following items, no etyma has been available so far: kol - in kollai, enclosure, garden, park; ōm - in ōmai, tooth-brush tree. As far as the Tamil encl. emph. -ē and coord. part.- um are concerned, in spite of the fact that they are not included in the DED by Burrow and Emeneau, they are not isolated, cf. with Ta.-ē the Ma. and Ka. functionally and etymologically identical - ē, so that it seems to be at least PTaKa; with Ta.- um the Ka. - ū.

2.2.3 Out of 89 Tamil roots listed here, 51 are of the type (C)VC, 27 of the type (C)V̄C, 9 of the type (C)V̄ and 2 of the type (C)V. This shows that by far the most numerous roots in Tamil are light bases of the shape (C)VC.

In alternative analysis, consonant-ending roots, i.e. (C)VC and (C)V̄C are in absolute majority (78) against the vowel-ending bases (only 11 items).

3.1. Tagmemes and Constructions

3.1.1. The following levels are recognized here: text level, sentence level, clause level, phrase level, word level, stem level, root level, in this descending order. It may be that in a more detailed analysis of more copious material one would have to recognize an intermediate level between word and phrase, the level of compounds.

3.1.2. In the text (hypersyntagmeme) of this inscription we may recognize four sentence-types (syntagmemes): opening, close, statement and hortation.

3.1.3. There are, in the text of the inscription, 21 sentence-level tagmemes. They are as follows (in the actual order of occurrence):

1. kōvicaiya siṁhavarmmaṟku yāṇṭāṟāvatu, in the sixth year of king Vijaya Simhavarman: independent non-clause sentence manifesting the Opener Syntagmeme [9].

2. veṇkuṉṟakkoṭṭattup perunakaraṇāṭṭu nāṭṭār kāṇka, let the members of the assembly of the nāṭu of Perunakaraṇāṭu, a sub-division of Veṇkuṉṟakkoṭṭam observe! Independent clause-sentence manifesting the Hortation Syntagmeme.

3. taṇṇāṭ amaṇcerkkai paruttikkuṉṟil vajranandikkuravarkkup palli-ccantamākak koṭutton, we have granted (the village of) Amaṇcerkkai in your own nāṭu as pallicantam to the teacher Vajranandi of P.; independent clause-sentence manifesting the Statement Syntagmeme.

4. tāṅkaḷum paṭākai naṭantu kalluṅ kalliyunnāṭṭi aṟaiyolai ceytu koṭuttuviṭutakaveṉṟu nāṭṭārkkut tirumukam viṭa, (the king) has issued a royal order to the members of the assembly of the nāṭu saying: You also, having walked (around) the paṭākai, planted stones and milk-bush (and) having made the order for proclamation, let (you) issue (it); dependent non-clause sentence manifesting the Statement Syntagmeme.

5. tāṅkaḷum paṭākai naṭantu kalluṅ kalliyunnāṭṭi aṟaiyolai ceytu koṭuttuviṭutaka, you also having walked (around) the paṭākai, planted stones and milk-bush, having made the order of proclamation, let (you) issue (it)! An included dependent clause-sentence manifesting the Hortation Syntagmeme and filling the Object Slot of Sentence 4.

6. nāṭṭārum tirumukaṅ kaṇṭu toḻutu talaikkuvaittu paṭākainaṭantu kalluṅ kalliyun nāṭṭi, and the members of the assembly of the nāṭu having seen the royal order, having made obeisance (and) placed (it) on their heads, having walked (around) the paṭākai, having planted stones and milk-bush ... A fragment dependent clause-sentence (with elliptic Predicate tagmeme) manifesting the Statement Syntagmeme.

7. nāṭṭār viṭunta araiyolaip paṭikkellai, the boundaries according to the order of proclamation issued by the members of the assembly of the nāṭu (are as follows). An independent non-clause-sentence (monopartite) manifesting the Statement Syntagmeme.

8. kīḻapālellai entaleriyiṉ kiḻaik kaṭarriṉ meṟkumomaikkollai ellai, the eastern boundary (is) the boundary of the garden of tooth-brush tree and to the west of the jungle (on) the eastern side of the tank Entaleri. An indep. clause-sentence manifesting the Statement Syntagmeme.

9. iṉṉum teṉpālellai velvaṭukaṉ keṇiyiṉ vaṭakkum kaṭarriṉellai iṉṉum nīlapāṭi ellai iṉṉum vilāṭaṉ kuṟṟettattellai, again the southern boundary (is) the boundary of the small picottah of Vilāṭaṉ, and also the boundary of Nīlapāṭi, and also the boundary of the jungle, and to the north of the well of Vēḻvaṭukaṉ. Dependent clause-sentence, manifesting the Statement Syntagmeme.

10. iṉṉum melpālellai māvettattu vaṭiyiṉ kiḻakkum mummūlai ettattellai iṉṉum āṟṟellai, further, the western boundary (is) the boundary of the river and also the boundary of water-lift at three-corner and to the east of the pastway of the great picottah. Dependent clause-sentence, manifesting the Statement Syntagmeme.

11. iṉṉum vaṭapālellai peruṅkollaiyiṉ ṟeṟku iṉṉum pāṇṭiyaṉ kayattellai iṉṉum murukkaṉ keṇi ellai, again the northern boundary (is) the boundary of the tank of palā trees, and also the boundary of Pāṇṭiyaṉ's tank, and also to the south of the great garden. Dependent clause-sentence, manifesting the Statement Syntagmeme.

12. ivvicaitta perunāṉkellai yakattu makappaṭṭa nilam nīr nilamum puṉceyyum kaḷarum kaṉṟumeypāḻum kāṭum pīṭilikaiyum kiṭaṅkuṁ keṇiyum maṉaiyum maṉaippaṭappum uṭumpoṭi āmai tavaḻnta tellām unnilaṉ oḷivinṟi kovum poṟiyum māṟṟi kuṭiṉīkki, the land situated within the four great boundaries thus described, wet lands, dry lands, brackish land, the waste land where calves graze, forest, pīṭilikai, ditches, wells, houses, house-gardens, and all the land included where iguana runs and tortoise crawls, without exclusion, having changed the kingship and authority, having removed the tenants (scill. was given by us). A fragment dependent clause-sentence (with elliptic Predicate) manifesting the Statement Syntagmeme.

13. ivvūr perṟa vajranandikkuravarkke paḷḷicantamāka tāmariḻum patiṉāṟaraippatti nilaṁ koṭuttom, to the same teacher Vajranandi who received this village we gave sixteen and a half patti of land as paḷḷicantam also in the village Tāmar. Dependent clause-sentence manifesting the Statement Syntagmeme.

14. iṉṉilattiṟkellai, the boundaries of this land (are); a dep. non-clause (monopartite) sentence manifesting the Statement Syntagmeme.

15. kīḻpālellai pulikiḻārpaṭṭiyiṉ meṟkum, the eastern boundary (is) to the west of Pulikiḻārpatti: dep. clause-sentence, manifesting the Statement Syntagmeme.

16. teṉpālellai muḷḷeṟi pāṭṭellaiyiṉ vaṭakkum, and the southern boundary to the north of the boundary of Muḷḷeṟipāṭṭu: dep.clause-sentence, manifesting the Statement Syntagmeme.

17. melpālellai pokkuvāyceṟuviṉ kiḻakkum, and the western boundary (is) to the east of Pokkuvāyceṟuvu; dependent clause-sentence manifesting the Statement Syntagmeme.

18. vaṭapālellai pallāṅkuḻikkāviṉ teṟkkum, and the northern boundary to the south of Pallāṅkuḻikkāvu; dependent clause-sentence manifesting the Statement Syntagmeme.

19. innāṉkellai yakattum akappaṭṭa bhūmiyum paruttikkuṉṟil vajranandikkuravarkke paḷḷiccantamāka, and the land situated within these four boundaries (scill. was given) to the same teacher Vajranandi of Paruttikkuṉṟil. A fragment dependent clause-sentence (with elliptic Predicate) manifesting the Statement Syntagmeme.

20. paradatti cenṟatu narabhayaṉāṉattiyāl, the paradatti was made with the executorship of Narabhayan; independent clause-sentence manifesting the Statement Syntagmeme.

21. si(dhham), success, independent non-clause sentence, manifesting the Closer Syntagmeme.[10]/

3.1.4. As far as the internal structure and different types of clauses are concerned, the following four types of clauses (hypertagmemes) may be observed in the text:

3.1.41. Hortative Clause (Hort Cl): + S + P: v opt. Cf. utterances 2 and 5.

3.1.42. Intrans / Trans Statem Cl : ± S + P(S). Cf.utterances 3,13 and 20.

3.1.43. Fragment Intrans/Trans Statem Cl : ± S + ⟶Elliptic P(S). Cf. utterances 6,12,19.

3.1.44. Equative Statement Cl: + Item + Identification. Cf. utterances 8,9,10,11,15,16,17,18. As many be seen, this is the favourite clause-type of the inscription.

The main difference between 3.1.42 and 3.1.43 lies in the fact that in 3.1.42 the obligatory P is manifested within the linguistic space whereas in 3.1.43 the obligatory P is elliptic in the linguistic space, the clause being left a fragment.

The main difference between 3.1.42 and 3.1.44 lies in the fact that in 3.1.42 the S tagmeme is optional whereas in 3.1.44 the Item tagmeme (functionally analogous to S) is obligatory, and that in the former the P tagmeme includes a covert subject whereas in the later the Identification tagmeme (functionally analogous to the P) does not contain any covert subject.

Clauses may be independent (cf.2,8,20) or dependent (e.g.18,19).

For the diagrammatic and formulaic representation of some utterances see Appendix[11]/.

3.1.5. Clause Level Tagmemes and Their Manifestations

3.1.51. The SUBJECT TAGMEME and the ITEM TAGMEME are typical clause-level tagmemes. The S tagmeme is optional in Intrans/Trans Statem Clauses which have the minimum formula ± S + P(S). The Item tagmeme is obligatory in Equative Statem Clauses which have the minimum formula + Item + Identification.

3.1.51.1. The Subject and Item Slots are filled by:

3.1.51.11. substantive noun: āmai tavaḻntatu, the tortoise

crawled, ± S:n + P(S): v fin; paradatti cenratu, the paradatti was made, ± S:n + P(S): v fin.

3.1.51.12. Noun phrase: kīḻpālellai...etc., the eastern boundary, + Item : Nphr.

3.1.51.13. pronoun: tāṅkaḷ...koṭuttuviṭutaka, you...should give, + S: pron...+P:v opt.

3.1.51.14. Apposition phrase of the formula + It:Nphr + Appos: Coord Nphr in 11.47 - 52.

3.1.52. The PREDICATE TAGMEME - in Equative Statem Cl the IDENTIFICATION TAGMEME - is the other typical clause-level tagmeme. It is obligatory in all clauses. The definition of clause in Tamil is therefore as follows: A clause construction is any string of tagmemes which consists of or includes one and only one predicate or predicate-like tagmeme and an overt or covert subject or subject-like tagmeme.

The Predicate and Identification Slots are filled by:

3.1.52.1. finite verb from: āmai tavaḻntatu, the tortoise crawled, ± S:n + P(S): v fin; nilaṅ koṭuttom, we gave the land, formula + O:n + P(S): v fin.

3.1.52.2. optative verb form: nāṭṭār kāṅka, let the members of the assembly of the nāṭu see, ± S: n + P:v opt. This form may be expanded as in tāṅkaḷ...koṭuttuviṭutaka, you...should give, + S : pron... + P:Vphr.

3.1.52.3. infinitive:...enru nāṭṭārkkut tirumukam viṭa, (the king, or we) has (have) issued a royal order to the members of the nāṭu saying,....form: ± Quot:adv part ± Rec:n dat ± O:n + P:v inf.

3.1.52.4. Noun phrase in Equative Statem Cl: kīḻpālellai pulikiḻārpattiyiṉ merku, the eastern boundary (is) to the west of P., + Item :Nphr + Identification: Nphr. This may be expanded to a Coord Nphr as in 11.37-8.

3.1.53. The OBJECT TAGMEME occurs as an optional tagmeme in Trans/Intrans Verb Clauses. The Object Slot is filled by

31.53.1 noun or Nphr: tirumukan viṭa,(the king) has issued a royal order, ± O:n + P:v inf: tannāṭ amaṉcerkkai...koṭutton, we gave the village of A. in your own nāṭu, ± O :Nphr...+ P(S): v fin.

31.53.2. Included Clause-sentence, as in 31-33, where the O Slot is filled by an included Clause-sentence which is thus the "object" of the proclamation made by the king. The inclusion is marked by a Quot tagmeme manifested by adv. part. enru, having said so, saying so.

31.1.54. The RECIPIENT TAGMEME is optional. The Rec Slot is manifested typically by nouns or Noun phrases in which the Head tagmeme is manifested by nouns in dative: nāṭṭārkkut tirumukam viṭa,(the king) has issued a royal order to the members of the assembly of the nāṭu, ± Rec: n dat ± O:n + P:v inf. It may be expanded to a Nphr: tannāṭ amaṉcerkkai paruttikkuṉril vajranandikkuravarku...koṭutton, we have given the village of A. in your own nāṭu to the teacher V. of P., ± O:Nphr + Rec: Nphr + P(S): v fin.

3.1.55. The TIME SEQUENCE TAGMEME is optional. The Time Seq Slot is filled by Verb phrases: tāṅkaḷ...paṭākainaṭantu kalluṅkaḷliyun nāṭṭi araiyolai ceytu koṭuttuviṭutaka, you...having walked (around) the paṭākai, planted stones and milk-bush (and)

having made the order for proclamation, let(you) issue (it)! The tagmemic formula is + S:pron...± Ti Seq_1:Vphr ± Ti Seq_2:Vphr ± Ti Seq_3:Vphr + P:Vphr.

3.1.56. The LOCATION TAGMEME is optional. Loc Slot is filled by nouns or Noun phrases: tāmaril...nilaṅkoṭuttom, we have given land...in the village of Tāmar, ± Loc:n loc...± O:n + P(S):v fin. For Nphrases in the same slot, cf.11.37-8,39-41.

3.1.57. The MANNER TAGMEME is optional. Manner Slot is filled by Verb phrase: ivvicaitta...nilam...oḷiviṉṟi (scil. koṭukkappaṭṭatu), the above-said land (scil.was given) without exclusion, formula + S:Nphr...± Man: Vphr + ⟶ Ell P.

3.1.58 The INSTRUMENT TAGMEME is optional. Instrument Slot is filled by Nphr, the H tagmeme of which is manifested by noun in instrumental: paradatti ceṉṟatu narabhayaṉāṉaṭṭiyāl, the paradatti was made with the executorship of Narabhayaṉ, formula ± S:n + P(S) :v fin ± Instr :Nphr.

3.159. The COMPLEMENT TAGMEME is optional. The Compl Slot is filled by a special kind of Vphr where both tagmemes are obligatory: tannāṭ amaṉcerkkai...vajranandikkuravarkkup palliccantamāka koṭutton, we have given Amaṉcerkkai in your own nāṭu...to the teacher V. as pallicantam, ± O:Nphr...± Rec:Nphr ± Compl.:Vphr + P(S): v fin.

3.1.60. The COORDINATION TAGMEME is manifested by

3.1.60.1. coord. particle enclitic -um: kīḻapālellai entaleriyiṉ kīḻaikkaṭaṟṟiṉ merkum omaikkollai ellai, the eastern boundary (is) the boundary of the garden of tooth-brush tree and (is) to the west of the jungle (on) the eastern side of the tank Entaleri. + Item: Nphr ± Loc:Nphr ± Coord:-um + Identification: Nphr.

3.1.60.2. coord. particle iṉṉum: tenpālellai[1] veḷvaṭukaṉ keṇiyiṉ vaṭakum[2] a kaṭaṟṟiṉ ellai[3] iṉṉum[b] nīlapāṭi ellai[4] iṉṉum[c] vilāṭaṉ kuṟṟettellai[5], the southern boundary[1] (is) the boundary of the small picottah of Vilāṭaṉ[5], and also[c] the boundary of Nīlapāṭi[4], and also[b] the boundary of the jungle[3], and[a] to the north of the well of Veḷvaṭukaṉ[2]: + Item :Nphr ± Loc:Nphr ± Coord:-um + Identification :Coord Nphr. The formula of this Coord Nphr is + It_1:Nphr + Coord:iṉṉum + It_2:Nphr + Coord: iṉṉum + It_3 :Nphr. Cf. 3.1.82.2.

3.1.61. The QUOTATION TAGMEME is manifested by adv.part. of the verb eṉ, to say so-and-so, cf. tāṅkaḷ...aṟaiyolai ceytu koṭuttu viṭutakaveṉṟu nāṭṭārkkut tirumukam viṭa, (the king) has issued a royal order to the members of the assembly of the nāṭu saying: You...should make and issue the order for proclamation: (± O:Incl Cl) ± Quot:eṉṟu ± Rec: n dat ± O :n + P : v inf.

3.1.62. The SEQUENCE CONNECTOR TAGMEME is different from Coordinator Tagmeme not by virtue of its meaning but of its distribution; whereas fillers of Coord slot connect items within phrases and/or clauses, etymologically identical but structurally different fillers of Con slot connect whole clauses (and sentences) with other clauses (and sentences) functioning at the same time as dependence-marking tagmemes.

3.1.62.1. -um: tāṅkaḷum paṭākai naṭantu kalluṅ kalliyun nāṭṭi aṟaiyolai ceytu koṭuttu viṭutaka, and you, having walked around the paṭākai, having planted stones and milk-hedge, having made the order for proclamation, let (you) issue (it), formula: Dep Cl = + S:pron + Con: -um ± Ti Seq_1:Vphr ± Ti Seq_2:Vphr ± Ti Seq_3:Vphr + P: Vphr. Another instance: kīḻapālellai pulikīḻārpaṭṭiyiṉ merkum

tenpālellai mulleri pāttellaiyin vatakkum, the eastern boundary (is the boundary) to the west of Pulikilārpatti; and the southern boundary (is) to the north of the boundary of Mulleripāttu. The two dep.clause-sentences are connected by the encl.-part.-um in this way:

+ (+Item :Nphr + Identification: Nphr) Cl_1 + Con:-um + (+ Item :Nphr + Identification :Nphr) Cl_2 + Con: - um.

3.1.62.2. innum : innum tenpālellai...etc. where the Con slot is filled by innum. The Connector Tagmeme occurs at different spots in the linear order of utterances; in 1.62, it occurs with bhūmi- (bhūmiyum); but mostly it occurs at the beginning of dependent clauses.[13]/

3.1.7. Phrase Level Tagmemes and Their Manifestations

3.1.71. The QUALIFIER TAGMEME is a typical phrase level tagmeme. It occurs in Modifier-Head phrases and it has a variety of subtypes according to its meaning.

3.1.71.1. Most common is the Qual Identifier slot filled by:

3.1.71.11. adjective: kilapāl, eastern part, ± Qual Ident adj + H:m, vatapāl, northern part, ± Qual Ident: adj + H:n, ivvūr, this village, ± Qual Ident: adj.dem. + H:n, innilattirku, to this land, etc.

3.1.71.12. noun, simple or compound: pāntiyan kayattu, Pāndyan's well, ± Qual Ident: n + H:n, vajranandikkuravar, the teacher Vajranandi, ± Qual Ident:n + H:n, ulnilan, land (which is) in, ± Qual Ident:n + H:n; noun in obl./gen. arrellai, the border of the river, ± Qual Ident : n gen + H:n, katarrin ellai, the border of the jungle, ± Qual Ident : n gen + H:n.

3.1.71.13. Noun phrase: kilapālellai, the boundary of the eastern portion, ± Qual Ident: Nphr + H:n, kurrettattellai, the boundary of small picottah, ± Qual Ident: Nphr + H:n, amancerkkai, the village of A. in your own nātu, ± Qual Ident: Nphr + H:n, patinārāraippatti nilam, the land of sixteen patti, ± Qual Ident: Nphr+H:n. As may be seen, the H slot of such Qual phrases is mostly filled by noun in oblique/genitive. It may also be filled by noun in dative: innilattirku ellai, the boundary of this land, ± Qual Ident: Nphr + H:n, kovicaiya simhavarmmarkku yāntārāvatu, in the sixth year of King Vijaya Simhavarmman, ± Qual Ident:Nphr + H: ord num.

3.1.71.14. It may be filled by a Focus-Orienter Nphrase: nāttār vitunta araiyolaippatikku ellai, the boundary according to the proclamation issued by the nāttār, ± Qual Ident:Foc Orient Nphr + H:N.

3.1.71.15. Qual Ident slot may be filled by Vphr: kanrumey pāl, the waste land (where) the calves graze: ± Qual Ident:Vphr + H:n; ivvūr perra vajranandikkuravar, the teacher V. (who) received this village, ± Qual Ident:Vphr + H:Nphr; ivvicaitta...nilam, the land, thus proclaimed, ± Qual Ident: Vphr + H:n, nāttār vitunta araiyolai, the proclamation, issued by the nāttār, ± Qual Ident: Vphr + H:n.

3.1.71.16. Finally, this slot may be filled (only with certain Heads in limited distribution) by included Independent and Dependent Clauses, as in āmai tavalntatu ellām, all (scill. land, where) the tortoise crawled, ± Qual Ident:Ind Cl + H:n ellām; utumpu oti... ellām, all (scill. land, where) the iguana runs, ± Qual Ident: Dep.Cl. + H:ellām. One should notice that in these phrases, the

Qual slot is obligatory. They form thus a subtype of Qual Ident phrases which is characterized by (a) obligatory occurrence of Qual Ident slot, (b)limited number of fillers of the Head slot, (c) the fact that the fillers of Qual slots are included clauses, dep. or indep.

3.1.71.2. Qualifier Quality Descriptive slot is filled by adjective: māvettattu, of the big picottah, ± Qual Qual: adj + H:n, kurrettattu, of the small picottah; perunāṅkellai, the four great boundaries, the formula being ± Qual Qual : adj ± Qual Quant : n num + H:n.

3.1.71.3. Qualifier Substance Descriptive slot is filled by noun: nīrnilam, wet land, ± Qual Sub: n + H:n; kovicaiya siṁhavarmmarku, to king Vijaya Simhavarmman, ± Qual Sub: n + H: (± H:n ± H:n).

3.1.71.4. Qualifier Possession Slot is filled by noun or poss. pronoun: vilāṭaṉ kurrettattu, of the small piccotah belonging to Vilāṭaṉ, ± Qual Poss: n + H :Nphr; taṉ nāṭ, of your own nāṭu, ± Qual Poss:n + H:n.

3.1.71.5. Qualifier Limiter slot is filled by ord. numeral in yāṇṭu ārāvatu, (in) the sixth year, + H:n ± Qual Lim: ord num. In this phrase, both tagmemes are obligatory, and the H slot precedes rather unusually the modifying slot.

3.1.71.6. Qualifier Quantifier slot is filled by adj. numeral and noun numeral, as in mummūlai, three corners, ± Qual Quant; num adj + H : n, perunāṅkellai, four great boundaries, ± Qual Qual : adj ± Qual Quant: n num + H:n, patiṉārāraip paṭṭi, sixteen and a half paṭṭi, ± Qual Quant: n comp + H:n.

3.1.72. The HEAD or NUCLEUS Tagmeme occurs as an obligatory tagmeme in modifier - head phrases and is filled by

3.1.72.1. noun: yāṇṭu ārāvatu, (in) the sixth year, + H:n ± Qual Lim: ord num; teṉpāl ellai, the southern portion, ± Qual Ident:Nphr + H:n; kaṉṟumey pāl, waste-land (where) calves graze, ± Qual Ident:Vphr + H:n. The noun which fills the H slot may of course be modified by suffixes as in māvettattu, of the great picottah.

3.1.72.2. Nphr, as in ivvūrppeṟṟa vajranandikkuravarkku, to the teacher V., who received this village, ± Qual Ident: Vphr + H:Nphr.

3.1.72.3. Verbs in various forms:

3.1.72.31. verb optative: tāṅkaḷ...koṭuttu viṭutaka, where the Vphr - a typical modified verb phrase of fairly cohesive type - has the formula + Verb Modifier: adv part + H : v opt.

3.1.72.32. v rel part; this is very frequent, since Tamil does not possess any relative pronouns and relative clauses, cf. ivvūr peṟṟa vajranandikkuravarkku, to teacher V. (who) received this village, where ivvūr peṟṟa is a Vphr = + Obj Mod:Nphr : H:v rel part; similarly in nāṭṭār viṭunta, "by the nāṭṭār-issued", formula + Subj Mod:n + H : v rel part; or perunāṉkellai yakattum akappaṭṭa nilam, the land included within the four great boundaries, where, again the H slot (akappaṭṭa) is filled by rel.part.

3.1.72.33. verb stem, as in kaṉṟumey pāl, the waste land (where) the calves graze, where the Qual Ident tagmeme-manifesting Vphr (kaṉṟumey) has the formula + Subj Mod:n + H: v stem. This construction is most typical for early Tamil, and its occurrence

in the prosaic portion of an inscription from cca 550 A.D. shows that its fairly common occurrence in Early Old Tamil poetry is not a poetic convention only but the reflexion of real usage.

3.1.72.34. The filler of the H slot may be complex (e.g. two nouns in juxtaposition) as in kovicaiya simhavarmmarku, to the King Vijaya Simhavarmman, formula ± Qual Sub:n + H: (± H:n ± H:n dat).

3.1.73. The Ti Seq slot-filling phrases are compound of two tagmemes, the Goal and the Action tagmemes.

The GOAL TAGMEME is different from the O tagmeme not by virtue of its meaning but on account of its distribution; while the O slot occurs as clause-level tagmeme preceding usually the P slot, the Goal slot occurs in phrases followed by the Action slot. It is filled by nouns and Noun phrases. araiyolai ceytu, having made the order for proclamation, ± Goal: n + Act : adv part; tirumukaṅ kaṇṭu, having seen the royal order; kuṭi nīkki, having removed the tenants, kalluṅ kaḷḷiyun nāṭṭi, having planted stones and milk-bush ± Goal :Nphr coord + Act : adv part. Similarly kovum poṟiyum māṟi, having changed kingship and sign of authority.

3.1.74. The ACTION SLOT is filled by verb adverbial participle: paṭākai naṭantu, having walked (around) the paṭākai, + Goal : n + Act:adv part; talaikku vaittu, having placed on the head, + Loc Dir: n dat + Act:adv part.

3.1.75. VERB MODIFIER Slot occurs in cohesive Verb phrases and is filled by adverb. participles, as in koṭuttuviṭutaka, let (you) issue (it)! + Verb Mod: adv part + H:v opt.

3.1.76. LOC DIRECTION Slot occure in Vphr manifesting the Ti Seq Tagmeme and is filled by n dat: tirumukam...talaikku vaittu,

having placed the royal order on the head: ± Goal:n...± Loc Dir: n dat + Act: v adv part.

3.1.77. The MODIFIER TAGMEME occurs in Vphrases filling Qual slots; the Head tagmeme of such phrases is manifested by rel. participles or verb stems, and the Mod slots are obligatory in this case:

3.1.77.1. Subject Mod slot is filled by n, as in kaṉṟumey pāḷ, the waste land (where) calves graze; the Qual Tagmeme-manifesting Vphr kaṉṟumey has the formula + Subj Mod:n + H: v st. Another instance: nāṭṭār viṭunta (araiyolai), (the order for proclamation) issued by the nāṭṭār : + Subj Mod: n + H: rel part.

3.1.77.2. Object Mod slot is filled by Nphr: ivvūr perṟa vajranandikkuravar, the teacher V. who obtained this village; here, Qual Vphr = + Obj Mod: Nphr + H: rel part.

3.1.77.3. Location Mod slot is filled by Foc-Orient phrase: perunāṉkellai yakattum akappaṭṭa bhūmi, the land situated within the four great boundaries: Qual Vphr = + Loc Mod: Foc Orient Nphr + H: rel part.

3.1.78. The FOCUS TAGMEME occurs as a typical phrase-level tagmeme in Focus-Orienter phrases. According to the meaning of the whole phrase, we may distinguish between Focus Location and Focus Manner slots.

3.1.78.1. Focus Location slot is filled typically by noun in genitive, or, when expanded, by a Nphr the head-noun of which is in obl./gen.: vaṭiyiṉ kiḻakku, to the east of the pathway: + Foc Loc: n gen + Orient Loc: n dat; peruṅkoḷḷaiyiṉ teṟku, to the south of the big tank, + Foc Loc :Nphr + H: n dat.

Similarly, velvaṭukaṉ keṇiyiṉ vaṭakku, to the north of V.'s tank, or perunāṉkellai yakattu, within the four great boundaries, + Foc Loc:Nphr + Orient Loc: n gen, and similarly, innāṉkellai yakattu, within these four boundaries.

3.1.78.2. Focus Manner slot is filled by verb noun in oḷivu iṉṟi, without exclusion, + Foc Man : vn + Orient Man : adv part, and by Nphr in nāṭṭār viṭunta aṟaiyolappaṭikku, according to the order of proclamation issued by the nāṭṭār, + Foc Man: Nphr + Orient Man : n dat.

3.1.79. The ORIENTER TAGMEME occurs with the Focus Tagmeme in Focus-Orienter phrases.

3.1.79.1. Orient Loc slot is filled typically by noun in dative, cf. vaṭiyiṉ kiḻakku, to the east of the pathway, + Foc Loc: n gen + Orient Loc: n dat; kaṭaṟṟiṉ meṟku, to the west of the jungle, + Foc Loc : n gen + Orient Loc: n dat. It may be also filled by noun in gen. as in perunāṉkellai yakattu, within the four great boundaries, + Foc Loc: Nphr + Orient Loc: n gen, or by noun with zero, as in entaleriyiṉ kīḻai, on the eastern side of the tank Entaleri, + Foc Loc :Nphr + Orient Loc: n.

3.1.79.2. The Orient Man slot is filled by noun in dative, as in aṟaiyolaip paṭikku, according to the order of proclamation, + Foc Man : n + Orient Man : n dat. It is also filled by adverb. participle in such sunstructions as oḷiviṉṟi, without exclusion, + Foc Man : vn + Orient Man : adv part. It should be noticed that in the Foc-Orient phrases, both slots are strictly obligatory.

3.1.80. APPOSITIONAL TAGMEME is manifested in our text by a coordinate (serial) Noun phrase which has the meaning of "specification by apposition". Cf.11.48 - 52 of the text; this stretch fills the Subj slot and has the formula + H:n ± Appos: Coord Nphr. The Coord Nphr = + ± It_1:Nphr + Coord:-um ± It_2: n + Coord:-um ± It_3: n + Coord: -um ± It_4:Nphr + Coord:-um ± It_5:n + Coord:-um ± It 6: n + Coord:-um ± It_7:n + Coord:-um ± It_8: n + Coord:-um ± It_9:n + Coord:-um ± It_{10}:n + Coord:-um ± It_{11}:Nphr .

3.1.81. ITEM Slot on phrase-level is filled by nouns and Nphrases, e.g. kalluṅ kalliyum, stones and milk-bush, + It_1:n + Coord:-um + It_2: n + Coord:-um. Similarly kovum poṟiyum, kingship and sign. Noun phrases in Item slots are found in 11.37, 38,42,43,44,47-8,48-52.

3.1.82. COORDINATOR Tagmeme is manifested by

3.1.82.1 -um, the enclitic coord. particle: kovum poṟiyum, kingship and sign, + It_1 :n + Coord:-um + It_2:n + Coord:-um.

3.1.82.2. iṉṉum :kaṭaṟṟiṉ ellai iṉṉum nīlapāṭi ellai iṉṉum vilāṭaṉ kuṟṟettattellai, the boundary of the jungle and also the boundary of Nīlapāṭi and also the boundary of the small picottah of Vilāṭaṉ; + Item$_1$:Nphr + Coord:iṉṉum + It_2:Nphr + Coord:iṉṉum + It_3:Nphr.

3.1.83. The SPECIFIER TAGMEME occurs on phrase-levels in Complement Slot-filling phrases; it is always obligatory and is filled by nouns: palliccantamāka, as pallicantam, formula + Spec: n + H: v inf.

3.1.84. EMPHASIS MODIFYING Slot is filled by emph.encl.vowel-e: ivvūr perṟa vaḻranandikkuravarkke, to the very teacher V. who obtained this village, + H:Nphr ± Emph Mod: -e.

3.2. Morphemes

3.2.1. STEM FORMATION

3.2.11. Compound Stems, occurring in the text, are typically combinations of two or more free stems; once, the combination of a bound root plus free stem occurs. Instances: perunakaram, lit. big town, + Qual Qual: adj + Nucl: n; venkunram, lit. white hill, + Qual Qual: adj+Nucl:n; venkunrakkottam, lit. the division of White Hill, + Qual Ident: n comp + Nucl:v. As may be seen from the formulas, such compounds may be termed "phrase-compounds: determinative". Once, a root-compound occurs: puncey, land fit for dry cultivation, + Qual Qual:n root + Nucl:n.Cf pun-a-m, DED 3558.

3.2.12. Affix-derived Stems, occurring in the text, have the following pattern: + R ± $ds_{1....n}$ ± $is_{1....n}$, that is: obligatory root plus optional derivational suffix (one or more) plus optional inflectional suffix (one or more). + R ± ds may be said to constitute the level of affix-derived stems. The formula for such forms as e.g. tal-ai, head, would read:

ns = + nc:nr (tal-) + nom: -ai,

that is, one kind of noun stem is composed of obligatory noun core slot filled by noun-root and obligatory nominalizer slot filled by suffix - ai.

In the pattern-formula + R ± $ds_{1....n}$ ± $is_{1....n}$, $n_{d,i} \neq 2$, that is, there are in our text no more than two derivational and/or inflectional suffixes. Cf. the following instances:

cerkkai = + R: cer- + ds_1:-kk + ds_2: -ai ;

kāṅka = + R: kāṅ- + ds: Ø ± is: -ka ;

koṭuttom = + R: koṭ- + ds: -u ± is_1: -tt ± is_2: -om ;

naṭantu = + R : naṭ- + ds: -a ± is : -nt/u ;

talaikku = + R : tal- + ds: -ai ± is : -kku ;

kaṭarrin = + R : kaṭ- + ds_1: -a + ds_2:-r/u ± is_1:*-t ±is_2:-in;

tavaḷntatu = + R : tav- + ds_1: -aḷ ± is_1: -nt ± is_2 : -atu.

In this way, we may analyse and describe Tamil grammatical constructions from the most inclusive units (texts, narrations) down the hierarchy to the layers of stem formations.[14]

3.2.2. DERIVATIONAL SUFFIXES

3.2.21. Noun

3.2.21.1. Type: - V

3.2.21.11. -i occurs according to the formula + R + ds_1:-i: kuḻ-i, hole,pit, pul-i, tiger, kuṭ-i, house, poṟ-i, sign, keṇ-i, well, eṟ-i, lake, paṭ-i, step, kaḷ-i, milk-hedge, paṭṭ-i,hamlet. This ds seems to be at least PSDr cum PCDr, cf.Ta.kuḻ-i,Ka.Ma-kuḻ-i, Tu.gur-i; Ta.puḷ-i, To.püṣ-y, Ka.Te.Go.puḷ-i; Ta.kuṭ-i, Ka. kuḍ-i, Te.Pa.Kui guḍ-i; Ta.paṭ-i, Ko.paṛ-y, Ka.paḍ-i, Te.paḍ-i etc.

3.2.21.12 -a occurs according to the formula + R + ds : -a + is: -m/-n: ak-a-m, interior, nil-a-m/nil-a-n, land, ground, kuṉṟ-a-m, hill, kay-a-m, tank; it also occurs as + R + ds_1: -a + ds_2, e.g. in vaṭ-a-kku, north, kuṭ-a-ṅku, ditch, paṭ-a-ppu, enclosure, kaṭ-a-ṟu, jungle. It is at least PSDr, cf.Ma. kay-a-m, Tu. kay-a; Kod.Tu.Ka. nel-a with Ta. nil-a-m etc.

3.2.21.13. -u: occurs according to + R + ds_1: -u + ds_2: par-u-tti, cotton, uṭ-u-mpu, iguana, vaṭ-u-k/u-aṉ, northener, mur-u-kku, palā-tree, ceṟ-u-vu, field. It seems to be at least PSDr and PCDr, cf. Ta. uṭ-u-mpu, Kol. uḍ-u-g, Nk. huṟ-u-g, Pa. uḍ-u, Go. urr-u-m.

3.2.21.2. Type - $\tilde{V} < {}^{*}$ - VC

-ai < PSDr *-ay, occurs according to the formula + R + ds: -ai: Ta.mūl-ai,corner, Ma.Te.Pa.mūl-a, Ka.Kod.Tu.CT mūl-e,but Kui muj-u, Kol.mūl-ā; ar-ai,half, Ma.Ka.Te.ar-a, Ka.Tu. CT ar-e, Ko.To. ar; ōl-ai, palm-leaf, Ma.ōl-a, Ka.Tu.Kod.CT ōl-e; tal-ai, head, Ma.Ka.Te.tal-a, Kod.Ka.CT tal-e, Tu.tar-è, Ko.To.Nk.Kol.Pa.Ga. tal,tel,tallu, Go.tal-ā, Kui tl-au, Malt.tal-i; further el-l-ai, border, man-ai, house (cf.To.man, Ko.man devr), kīl-ai, east, ām-ai, tortoise.

3.2.21.31. -ar occurs in + R + ds: -ar: cf. kal-ar, saline soil; tām-ar, name of a village.

3.2.21.4. Type - Cu

3.2.21.41. -*t/u: occurs in + R + ds: - *t/u: kanru, calf < *kan-*t/u or *kar - t/u; kunru, hill < ^{x}kun - *t/u or *kur-*t/u; occurs also in + R + ds_1: *-t/u + ds_2, and in + R + ds_1 ± ds_2, cf. patti, hamlet < ^{x}pat- *-t/u -i, cf. Ma.patti, Ko.paty, To.oty, Ka.patti,patta, Tu.pattu, Te.pattu, Ta.pattu,pattam,pattanam, pattinam; ērram,picottah, in the text (like CT)ettam,< *ēr/u *-t/u *-a -m, Cf.Te. ētamu, modern CT ēttɔn.

3.2.21.42. - r/u : occurs in + R + ds_1:V + ds_2: -r/u: kaṭ-a-r/u, jungle, cf. Ta. kāṭu, kaṭam, id.

3.2.21.43. -k/u : occurs in + R + ds_1:V + ds_2: -k/u: vaṭ-u-k/u, the northern region, Telugu region, cf. Ka. baḍ-a-gu, Ko. baḍ-a-kĭ, Te. vaḍ-ā̃-kū̃-gonda.

3.2.21.44. -v/u: occurs always only as ± ds (since originally a verb-noun suffix appended to verb-stems) mostly according to the formula + R ± ds_1 ± ds_2, cf. ol-i-vu, cessation,exclusion; cer-u-v/u, field < cer-u; kā-v/u, park < kā.

3.2.21.5. Type - CV

par-u-tti,cotton, cf.Ma.par-u-tti, Ka.Tu.par-ti, Kod.par-a-ti, Te.pra-tti, Kui par-ti, Kuwi par-ti.

3.2.21.61. - kk/u, occurs in + R + ds_1 + ds_2: -kk/u: po -kk/u,hollow, mur-u-kku, palā-tree (cf.Ma. mur-i-kku, Kur. mur-kā, Malt.mur-ko).

3.2.21.62. - ñk/u, in + R + ds_1 + ds_2: -ñk/u: kiṭ-a-ñku,ditch.

3.2.21.63. - pp/u, in + R + ds_1 + ds_2: -pp/u: paṭ-a-ppu, enclosure.

3.2.21.64. - mp/u, in + R + ds_1 + ds_2: -mp/u: uṭ-u-mpu, iguana; cf. Kod.uṭ-u-mb/ĭ, Te.uḍ-u-m/u, in CDr and NDr differently.

The suffixes - Cu/-NCu seem to be restricted to the SDr sub-family.

3.2.21.7. Type - C

Ta.mē-l, above; west, cf. Ma.mē-l, To.me·-l, Ka.mē-l, Tu.mē-l/u, Te.mē-l,mē-l u; cf.Ta.mē, excellence etc; cf. micai <*micay; mēl < *micay-il?

3.2.21.8. Dative - ku/-kku > der.suf. - ku/-kku: mērku < mēl - ku (Ta.Ma.Ka.) west, to the west; ter- ku < ten -ku, to the south, south; kiḻ-a-kku, east, vaṭ-a-kku, north.

3.2.22. Nouns-Numerals.

3.2.22.1. - ku : + Root + ds: -ku: nāṉku, four < nāl- + -ku.

3.2.22.2. - *tu: + Root + ds: *-tu: pattu, ten, cf.paṉtu, id. < pat- + -*tu.

3.2.22.3. - ām : + Root + ds: - ām: el-l-ām < *el-l-ākum? Cf.Ko.el-m, Ka.el-l-ar-um, Ma.el-l-ām,el-l-ā-v-um.

3.2.23 Adjectives

3.2.23.1. -u: + Root + ds: -u: per-u, big, kur-u, short.

3.2.23.2. -a: + Root + ds: -a in vaṭ-a-, northern; + R ± ds: -a in kīḻ-a, eastern.

3.2.24. Verbs

3.2.24.1. Type - V

3.2.24.11. -u, in + Root + ds: -u: viṭ-u, leave, let etc., koṭ-u, give.

3.2.24.12. -a, in + Root + ds: -a: naṭ-a , walk.

3.2.24.13. -i, in + Root + ds: -i: oḻ-i, cease etc.

3.2.24.2 Type - $\tilde{V}$ < *- VC

ar-ai, to speak,sound; ic-ai, to sound,talk; in + Root + ds: -ai.

3.2.24.3. Type - VC

According to + R + ds: -aḻ: tav-aḻ, to crawl.

3.2.24.4. Type - Cu.

According to + Root ± ds: - k/u, *t/u : āku < ā-k/u, to become; mārru < mār/u + *-t/u, to change; nāṭṭu < nāṭ/u + *-t/u, to plant, fix etc.

3.2.24.5. Type - CCu, according to + Root ± ds: -kk/u, cf. nī-kk/u, to remove; pā-tt/u < *pa-k/u -tt/u, to divide.

For a detailed and excellent treatment of Dr.verb-derivative suffixes cf.Bh.Krishnamurti,Telugu Verbal Bases, 1961, pp.136-170.

3.2.25. Particles

The particle innum < i -nn -um is most comfortably analyzed as + R:i- + morphophon.empty morph -nn- + encl.coord.-um.

3.2.3. DERIVATIONAL-INFLECTIONAL SUFFIXES

3.2.31. - an: pāṇṭi-y-an (cf. pāṇṭi-nāṭu), a dynastic name, cf. Skt. Pāṇḍya-; vaṭ-u-k/u -an, northener (< vaṭ- north); narabhayan < Skt tatsama narabhaya - + - an, a male pers.name.

3.2.32. - ar: kuravar, religious teacher < Skt gurava- pl. + - ar.

3.2.33. - ār: nāṭṭār, members of the assembly of the nāṭu < nāṭ- + *-t/u + -ār; kiḻār, old man,chief < kiḻ- old age (cf. kiḻ-am, kiḻ-atu) + = ār.

3.2.34. -atu: āvatu v.n.becoming < ā -v- atu.

3.2.4. INFLECTIONAL SUFFIXES

3.2.41. Noun

3.2.41.1. Nominative - m/n: occurs according to the formula + R + ds: -a + is: -m/n, e.g. kay-a-m, tank (cf. Tu. kay-a), nil-a-m (1.48), land,earth (cf.Ko. nel-m, obl.nel-t); nil-a-n (1.52), id. (cf.To. nel-n, obl.nel-t-). In compounds, -m is elided, cf. aka-p-paṭṭa (<aka-m + paṭu).

3.2.41.2. Oblique/Genitive - *t/u ~ -tt/u: occurs according to the scheme + R ± ds ± is: *-t/u, cf. tannāṭ amaṉcerkkai (1.29); kaṭarru < kaṭ-a-r/u + *-t/u; ārru < ār/u + *-t/u; etta -tt/u, kaya-tt/u, aka - tt/u, nila-tt/u etc.

3.2.41.3. Oblique/Genitive/Locative - in, occurring according to the formula + R ± ds ± is: -in, or + R ± ds ± is_1: *-t/u ± is_2: -in, cf. eri-y-in, keṇi-y-in, vaṭi-y-in, paṭṭi-y-in, kāv-in,

pat-in and katarrin < + R: kat - + ds$_1$: -a + ds$_2$: r/u + is$_1$: *-t/u ± is$_2$: - in.

3.2.41.4. Dative -ku ∼ -kku; occurs usually according to formulas: + R ± ds ± is: -ku ∼ -kku; + R ± ds ± empty: -an/-in ± is: -ku, cf. tal-ai-kku, pat-i-kku; nilattirku < nil -a - tt/u - in - ku (+ R + ds + is$_1$ ± empty ± is$_2$); simhavarmmar-ku and kuravar-kku is + R + dis: -an/-ar + is: -ku ∼ -kku.

3.2.41.5. Locative - il: tāmar - il, in the village of Tāmar.[15]/

3.2.41.6. Instrumental - āl: ānatti-y-āl, by the order, through the executorship.[16]/

3.2.42. Pronoun

3.2.42.1. Pl.morpheme - m: tāṅkal < tā- + -m + - kal, the formula being + R: tā- + is$_1$: -m + is$_2$: -kal .

3.2.42.2. Pl.morpheme - kal: tāṅkal.

3.2.42.3. Obl./Gen. shortening of root-vowel: tān > tan in tannāt, of your own nātu.

3.2.43. Verb

3.2.43.1. Past tense suffix -t/u ∼ *-t/u/-tt/u/ -nt/u; occurs always according to formula + R ± ds ± is, cf. cey-tu (+ R ± is: -tu), tol-u-tu (+ R + ds: -u + is: -tu); enru < en - *tu, kantu < kan - *tu, cenratu < cel *-tu-atu, patta < pat *-tu-a; kotu -ttu, vai-ttu, kotu-tt-om, icai--tt-a; nata-ntu, vitu-nt-a, taval-nt-atu.

3.2.43.2. Past tense suffix - i; occurs always according to formula + R ± ds + is, cf. nīkk-i, mārr-i, ot-i, nātt-i; inr-i < inr/u + -i.

3.2.43.3. Fut.-aorist suffix -v : ā - v-atu.

3.2.43.4. 1.p.pl.- om: kotutt- om, formula + R + ds ± is$_1$: -tt ± is$_2$: om.

3.2.43.5. 3.p.sg. ahr. - atu : cenr-atu, tavalnt-atu. Formula of the second form + R + ds ± is$_1$: -nt ± is$_2$: -atu.

3.2.43.6. Infinitive suffix -a: āk-a, vit-a .

3.2.43.7. Hortative (optative) suffix -ka : kān -ka.

3.2.43.8. Hortative suffix - taka : vitu-taka.[17]/

3.2.43.9. Rel.participle suffix - a: icai-tt-a, vitu-nt-a, akappa-tt-a, pe-rr-a.

As may be seen from the above forms, in our system, the adverbial participle has no suffix at all; forms like nat-a-nt/u, having walked, or vai-tt/u, having placed, should be segmented as R (vai-) + past stem is (-ttu) where - u is automatic non-morphemic (morphophonemic) item; forms like ōt-i, having run, or nīkk-i, having removed, may be explained as R ōt- + past tense is - i. An independent suffix of adv.participle has no place in our system.

3.3. M o r p h o p h o n e m i c s

3.3.1. Changes occurring within the root

3.3.11. Shortening of long root-vowel: kīl, place below, east > kil-a-kk/u, to the east, east (but! kīl-a, adj. eastern).

The root mu-/mū- has obviously two alternative bases in Ta., cf. noun numeral mū -nr/u with adj.num. mu- (cf. mummūlai 1.43).

3.3.2. Morphophonemics proper - Changes on the edge of root and ds, of stem and is.

3.3.21. ketutal (Disappearance of sounds). One should notice the disappearance of nominative - m/-n before the obq./gen., cf. ettam < etta-tt/u.

3.3.22. tirital (Assimilation).

3.3.22.1. progressive:

-r/u + *-t/u > - rr/u: kuru > kurru; āru > ārru, kataru > kaṭarru; peru > perra.

3.3.22.2. regressive:

l + k > nk : nāl-ku > nāṅku
l + k > rk : mel-ku > meṟku
n + k > rk : nilattiṉ - ku > nilattiṟku; siṁhavarmmaṉ - ku > siṁhavarmmaṟku;
m + k > ṅk : tām-kal > tāṅkal

3.3.22.3. complete:

l + *t > nr : cel - *t/u > cenṟu; il - *t/u > inṟ- in inṟi

3.3.23. tōnral (Appearance of new sounds).

3.3.23.1. Gemination of liquids in short monosyllables before vowels: kal- + -i > kalli; el- + -ai > ellai.

3.3.23.2. Insertion of hiatus-filler:

-y- : eri - in > eriyin
-nn-: i - um > innum

3.3.23.3. Emergence of empty morph (cāriyai):

nil-a-tt/u- in -ku > nilattiṟku, formula + R + ds + is_1 ± empty: -in ± is_2.

3.3.3. Syntactophonemics - Changes occurring between two free or semifree words.

3.3.31. ketutal

3.3.31.1. The weakest vowel is of course - u which disappears regularly according to the rules of Literary Tamil sandhi cf. oḷivu iṉṟi > oḷiviṉṟi, tavaḷntatu ellām > tavaḷntatellām, uṭumpu oṭi > uṭumpoṭi, meṟku-um > meṟkum. In the inscription under scrutiny there are no special features to be observed in this respect.

3.3.31.2. One should notice the disappearance of nominative - m/-n in such sequences as akam paṭṭa > akappaṭṭa, perunakaram nāṭu > perunakaranāṭu, kuṉṟam koṭṭattu > kuṉṟakkoṭṭattu.

3.3.31.3. Haplology: pallāṅkuḻi < paṉṉāṅkuḻi < paṉṉāṅkukuḻi patiṉāṅkukuḻi, fourteen holes.

3.3.32. tirital

3.3.32.1. progressive: kollaiyiṉ teṟku > kollaiyiṉ reṟku

3.3.32.2. regressive:

m + k > ṅk : kiṭaṅkuṅ keṇiyum; kalluṅ kalliyum
m + t > nt : koṭutton tāṅkaḷum < koṭuttom tāṅkaḷum
m + n > nn : kalliyun nāṭṭi < kalliyum nāṭṭi
n + n > nn : tannāṭ < taṉ nāṭṭu

3.3.22.3. complete: uḷ + nilaṉ < uṇṇilaṉ

3.3.32.4. dissimilation: patiṉāṅkukuḻi > paṇṇāṅkuḻi > pallāṅkuḻi

3.3.33. tōṉṟal

3.3.33.1. Hiatus-fillers:

3.3.33.11. -y- : ellai-y-akattum, arai-y-olai. In one instance, -y- is absent and hiatus occurs: mūlaiettattellai (1.43).

3.3.33.12. -v- : ko-v-um, viṭutaka-v-enru, mā-v-ettattu.

3.3.33.13. -vv- : i - icaitta > ivvicaitta.

3.3.33.2. Insertion of homorganic nasal between adj. ending in -u and head of a Qual H phrase: peru kollai > peruṅkollai.

3.3.33.3. Insertion of empty morph -aṅ- : murukku keni > murukkaṅkeni.

3.3.33.4. - k,c,t,p - are lengthened ("doubled"): paruttikkuṟil, vajranandikkuravar; nāṭṭārkkut tirumukam; maṉaip paṭappu.

3.3.33.5. Final liquid before following vowel is doubled: kal-l-um, puṉcey-y-um.

3.3.33.6. Deictic i- before n- > inn- : i-nāṉku > innāṉku; i- nilattiṟku > innilattiṟku.[19]

3.3.33.7. mu- + mūlai > mummūlai.

3.3.4. Loanwords

3.3.41 Skt tatsama occur unchanged or only slightly changed in Tamil text. Skt narabhaya- > Ta. narabhayaṉ; Skt bhūmi- > Ta. bhūmiyum; Skt siṁhavarma- > Ta. siṁhavarmmaṟku. In graphemics this fact (the scribe must have been well aware of the distinction between tatsama and tadbhava loans) is expressed by using Grantha for tatsama loans, and Tamil script for tadbhavas and for Tamil portions of tatsama lws.

3.3.42 Vocalic changes:

Skt -ā > Ta. -ai : Skt paṭākā- > Ta. paṭākai

Skt -aya > Ta. -aiya : Skt vijaya- > Ta. vicaiya

3.3.43. Insertion of vowels:

Skt śrī > Ta. tiru

3.3.44. Consonantal change:

Skt kh > Ta. k : Skt śrīmukha- > Ta. tirumukam

Skt g > Ta. k : Skt gurava- > Ta. kurava-

Skt j > Ta. c : Skt vijaya- > Ta. vicaiya

Skt th > Ta. t : Skt pathi- > Ta. vati

Skt p > Ta. v : Skt pathi- > Ta. vati

Skt śr- > Ta. ø : Skt śramaṇa- > Ta. amaṉ-

Vowel is lost in Skt śramaṇa- > Ta. amaṉcerkkai. Skt -m- in cluster -rm- is lengthened in Ta., cf. Siṁhavarma - > Ta. Siṁhavarmma-.

4.1. Phonemes, Graphemics, Orthography

4.11. The phonemic system of Paḷḷaṉkōvil inscription is roughly identical with that of Standard Literary Tamil of that period (centamiḻ).

4.11.1. The vowel system of centamiḻ is two-dimensional involving three heights with the added contrasts of front-back and unrounded-rounded:

i u

e o

a

4.11.11. Length is phonemic.

4.11.12. It seems that ai should be considered a phoneme in the language of the grant, cf. kīḻa, adj. eastern in 36 vs. kīḻai s. east in 37, and ell-ai in 36 ff. vs. ell-ā-m in 52.

4.11.13. au does not occur.

4.11.2. The consonant system of Pallaṉkōvil centamiḻ is as follows:

	Labial	Dental	Alveolar	Cacumial Retroflex	Palatal	Velar
Stops	p	t		ṭ	c	k
Nasals	m	n		ṇ		
Laterals			l	ḷ		
Vibrants	flaps		r			
	trills		ṟ			
Semi-consonants	v				y	

4.11.21. Discussion of the phonemes /t/,/n/,/r/,/ṟ/.

4.11.21.1. /r/ and /ṟ/. /r/ occurs: finally (as in kalar 49, kiḻār 57, nāṭṭār 28, nīr 48) in CD with /ṟ/; in cluster -rkk- on morpheme boundary (as in cerkkai 29, kuravarkku 30); medially in contrast with /ṟ/: cf. eri 37 with eṟi 58, arai 55 with aṟai 32,36.

/ṟ/ does never occur finally; it occurs in cluster -nṟ- (as in iṉṟi 52, eṉṟu 33, kaṉṟu 49, kollaiyiṉ ṟeṟku 45, as result of morphophonemic processes); in cluster -ṟṟ- (as in āṟṟu 44, peṟṟa 54, māṟṟi 53 as result of morphophonemic change); in cluster -ṟk- on morpheme boundary as result of morphophonemic change as

in teṟku 45, nilattiṟku 56, meṟku 38; medially in contrast with /r/, cf. aṟai 32,36, eṟi 58, poṟi 53, āṟu 27,55 etc.

It follows that /r/ and /ṟ/ are in contrast in medial intervocalic position; they are two distinct phonemes; /ṟ/ seems to be in opposition with /r/ as a two-tap vibrant against one-tap flap.[20]/

4.11.21.2. /n/ and graphical ṉ. Graphical ṉ occurs initially in CD with graphical ṉ (as in nāṉku 47, nāṭṭu 28, nilattiṟku 56, nīr 48), in clusters -nt- and -ḷnt- (as in ental 37, viṭunta 35, tavaḷntatu 51-2), as result of morphophonemic processes in tannāṭ < taṉ nāṭṭu 29, koṭutton tāṅkaḷ < koṭuttom tāṅkaḷ 31, kalliyun nāṭṭi < kalliyum nāṭṭi 32 etc., and in -ṉṉ- in iṉṉāṉku < i-+ nāṉku 61, iṉṉilattiṟku < i - nilattiṟku 56. Graphical ṉ occurs finally in CD with graph. n as in kāviṉ 61, teṉ 39,57, nilaṉ 52, pāṇṭiyaṉ 46; medially in CD with n, as in maṉai; medially in iṉṉum; in cluster ṉṟ prob. as result of morphophonemic change as in kaṉṟu 49, ceṉṟatu 64, eṉṟu 33, in cluster ṉc in puṉcey 49 on morphemic boundary, and in cluster ṉk in nāṉku 61 on morpheme boundary as result of morphophonemic cha

It follows that the two graphemes n and ṉ are not in contrast phonemically; they are phonemically only variants (allophones) of one nasal phoneme /n/.

4.11.21.3. The allophonic range of /t/ was probably from spread-contact dental to postdental to point-contact alveolar. This difference was probably phonemic in Old Tamil, but early inscriptions show that in Early Middle Tamil the distinction had become obliterated.[21]/

4.11.21.4. The allophonic range of /n/ was probably from spred-contact dental to postdental to point-contact alveolar to palatal to velar in the language of early inscriptions: in Pallan-kōvil, ñ does not occur, ṉ occurs only as allophone of /n/ before homorganic nasal, cf. tāṅkal 31, vāṅku 47, pallāṅkuli 60-1, murukkaṅkeni 46-7, kiṭaṅku 50.

4.12. It seems that we may set up two coexistent phonemic systems for the language of most Tamil inscriptions: one is that of Tamil proper plus IA tadbhava-loans, the other, coexistent, is that of Indo-Aryan tatsama loanwords.

The scribe must have carefully distinguished between IA tatsamas and tadbhavas. The tadbhava lws are fully included within the Tamil phonemic, morphophonemic and graphemic systems whereas the tatsama loans, reflecting another and different phonemic system, are written in Grantha; cf. items like siṁkavarmma -r̲ku, vajranandi, bhūmi, paradatti, narabhaya-n̲ and si(ddham). Therefore, we do n o t include the IA phonemes occuring in these tatsama loans, i.e. j,d,bh,s,h and ṁ, as an integral and organic part of the phonemic system of Tamil in cca 550 A.D.

4.13.1. Long /ē/ and /ō/ are written as short e̲ and o̲ in accordance with the prevailing orthographic norm of the period.

4.13.2. Once, the form nāṭṭu is written curiously as nāṭ in tannāṭ amaṇcerkkai, which may be perhaps explained as the pronunciation of final -ṭṭu before the following initial vowel in this phrase.

4.2. L o a n w o r d s . C o l l o q u i a l i s m s .

4.21. The following loans from Indo-Aryan occur in the text:

aman - in amaṇcerkkai 29 < Skt śramaṇa -? Jains, Jainism.

āṇatti, order,command 64 < Pkt āṇatti, cf. Skt ājñapti.

kuravar, religious teacher,priest 30,54,63 < Skt guravaḥ, pl.from guru-?

kottam, administrative division, district, region 27-8 < Skt kostha - ?

cantam beauty, pleasure 30,54,63; accord. to DED 1921, only influenced by Skt chanda -, cf. Ma. cantam/antam, Ka. canda/cenda/anda, Tu.canda/anda, Te.candamu/andamu, cf.Ka.cannu,cennu - beauty etc. (DED 1999).

tirumukam, royal order 33,34< Skt śrīmukha-

nakaram, town,city 28 Skt < nagara-

narabhayaṉ, male pers. name 64 < Skt narabhaya-

paṭākai,division of a country, cluster of cottages etc. 31,34-5 Skt paṭākā-

paradatti, gift by another person 63-4 IA ? Cf. Note 3: para-datti?

palli, temple, monastery,school, 30,54,63, Cf.Skt pallī,pallikā, cf.To.poḻy,Ma.Ka.Kod.Tu.palli, Te.palli,palliya,palle, Pa.palli.

bhūmi, land 62 = Skt bhūmi-

vajranandi, male pers.name 30,54,63 = Skt vajranandi-

vati, way, path 43 < Skt pathi- ?

vicaiya, pers.name 27 < Skt vijaya-

si(ddham), success 64 = Skt siddha-

siṁhavarmmaṉ, male pers.name 27 < Skt siṁhavarma-

Compared with 89 original Tamil roots, occurring in the inscription, the numer of 17 (at most) loanwords is not at all

great. If we exclude (and we are entitled to) such tatsama loans as narabhayan, bhūmi, vajranandi, vijaya, siṁhavarmman, siddham and possibly also paradatti, and the words which are probably not loans (kottam, cantam), we are left with 8 typical IA loans as against 89 Tamil roots; this ratio shows without further commentary the nature of the Tamil language employed for epigraphic purposes in the 6th cent.

4.22. Among the features which indicate later developments toward the c o l l o q u i a l form of the language, or, perhaps, the penetration of existing contemporary colloquial forms into inscriptional Tamil of the 6th century, we may mention the following:

4.22.1. In phonology, the change of rr > tt which is, however, not quite consequent, cf. kurrettattellai (41), māvettattu (42), mummūlai ettattellai (43) with ārru in 44, mārri in 53, perra in 54 etc. Only ettam, picottah, is always used in place of LT ērram.

4.22.2. Among the unusual forms, we may list the hortative (optative) viṭutaka in 1.33 for LT viṭuka, and the past participle viṭunta (35) for LT viṭṭa.

4.22.3. As far as the syntax of the inscription is concerned, we should notice,

a) the use of inf. -āka as filler of the Head Slot in Complement--Slot-filling phrases (palliccantamāka) where LT would prefer adv.part.-āy.

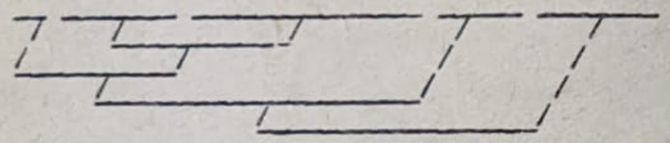
b) the construction uṭumpoṭi āmai tavaḷntatellām unnilam, the included land, all (where) iguana runs and tortoise crawled, i.e. the finite verb form as filler of the Head Slot of a Qual H phrase together with ellām.

c) word-order in 63-64, which is ± S : n + P(S) : v fin ±
Instr : Nphr, where LT would prefer S, Instr, P.

A p p e n d i x

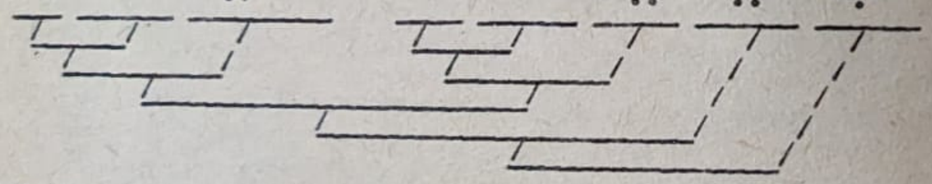
In this part, the diagrammatic representations of sentences 1,2,7,15 and 20 are given.

1. ko vicaiya simhavarmmarku yāntu ārāvatu



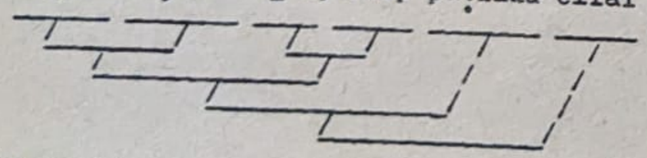
"In the sixth year of King Vijaya Simhavarman"; an Independent Non-Clause Sentence: Opener (Time Introducer). Formula ± Qual Ident:Nphr + H : ord num.

2. ven kunrak kottattup peru nakara nāttu nāttār kānka



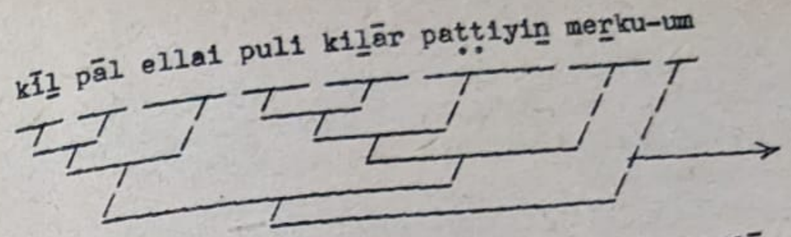
"Let the members of the assembly of the nātu in Perunagaranadu, a subdivision of Venkunram, see!" An Independent Clause Sentence: Hortation. Formula: + S:Nphr + P: v opt.

7. nāttār vitunta araiyolaip patikku ellai



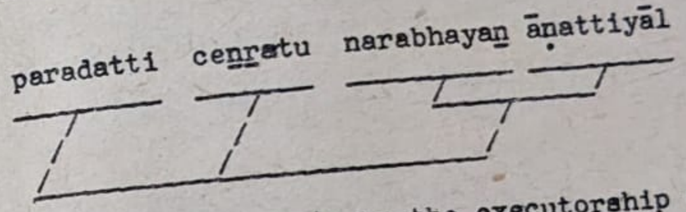
"The boundary according to the order of proclamation issued by the nāttār (scil. is as follows)". An Independent Non-Clause monopartite Sentence: Statement. Formula ± Qual Ident:Nphr + H:n.

15. kīl pāl ellai puli kilār pattiyin merku-um



"The eastern boundary (is) to the west of Pulikilārpatti, and". Dependent Clause-Sentence (Equative): Equative Statement. Formula + Item :Nphr + Identification: Nphr ± Con : -um.

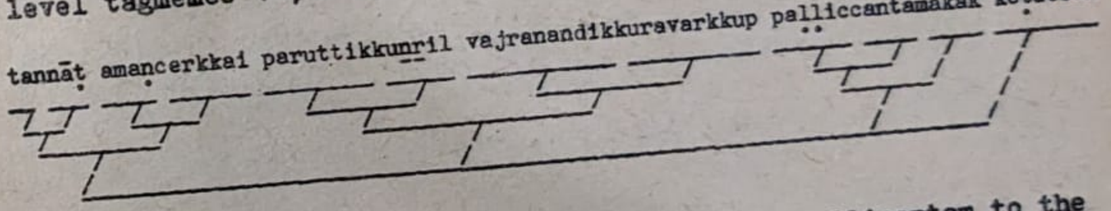
20. paradatti cenratu narabhayan ānattiyāl



"The paradatti was made by the executorship of Narabhayan". Independent Clause-Sentence: Statement. Formula ± S :n + P(S):v fin ± Instr:Nphr.

For comparison a rather complicated clause-sentence of four clause-level tagmemes (O, Rec, Comp, P): sentence 3.

tannāt amancerkkai paruttikkunril vajranandikkuravarkkup palliccantamākak kotuttom



"We have given Amancerkkai in your own nātu as pallicantam to the teacher Vajranandi of Paruttikkunril". An Independent Clause-Sentence: Statement. Formula ± O:Nphr ± Rec:Nphr ± Compl: Vphr + P(S): v fin.

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NOTES

1/ Kenneth L. Pike, Language in relation to a unified theory of the structure of human behavior,I,II,III,1954,1955,1960; Velma B. Pickett, The Grammatical Hierarchy of Isthmus Zapotec, 1960; Robert E. Longacre, String Constituent Analysis, Lg.36, 1960; Benjamin Elson - Velma Pickett, An introduction to morphology and syntax,1962; Kamil Zvelebil, How to handle the structure of Tamil, Archiv Orientální 30, 1962.

2/ My English translation of the Pallaṅkōvil Grant differs slightly from that of T.N. Subramaniam, since it is based on a strict syntactic analysis of the text. For these differences cf. the editor's English version in op.cit.pp.82-3.

3/ Amaṇcerkkai..." is evidently the modern Ammaṇampākkam near Veṅkuṉram" (T.N.S., op.cit.p.75).

4/ Cf. Bāhūr plates (Ep.Ind.XVIII), Kāśākuḍi plates (SII,II. 353.133), Vēḷūrpāḷaiyam plates (SII,II,506.53), "gift to another person" or "gift by another person": para-datti.

5/ Cf. names like Paruttiyūr, Paruttikkuṭi... and the discussion of this name by the editor in op.cit.pp.73-4.

6/ Cf. Rāyakōṭa plates (EI V.49-53), and Larger Leyden Grant. Cf. SII vol.XII, No 106 where it prob. denotes balipīṭha. According to T.N. Subramaniam (cf. his detailed discussion of the term in op.cit.pp.66-8) it may denote "the land on which the sanctuary stood", cf. also pīṭilikaivāri, an officer of the temple, entrusted with the removal of flowers from the previous day.

7/ Region around Perunagar, a village about 8 miles from Uttaramallur in the Conjeevaram District (T.N.S.p.75).

8/ This name figures in many inscriptions "and comprised the region surrounding Venkunram in the Wandiwash taluk of the North Arcot District" (T.N.S.,pp.78).

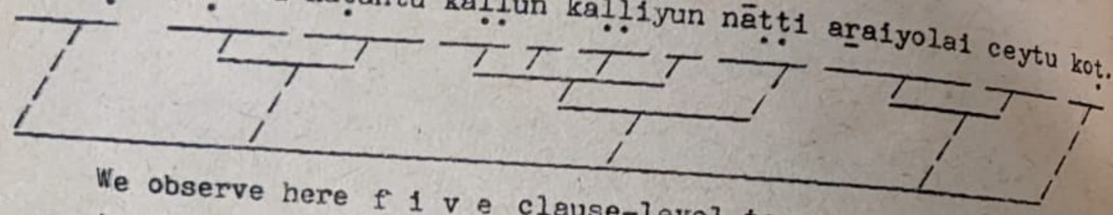
9/ Opener Syntagmeme is, at the same time - from the point of its meaning and place in the inscriptions - a Time Introducer.

10/ Closer Syntagmeme fills, at the same time, the Benefactive Slot in the inscriptions.

11/ For technical reasons it was impossible to give diagrams of all 21 sentences manifesting the four syntagmemes and included within the hypersyntagmeme of the text.

12/ This shows the dichotomous segmentation to be often quite untenable; the structure of the utterance may be symbolized as

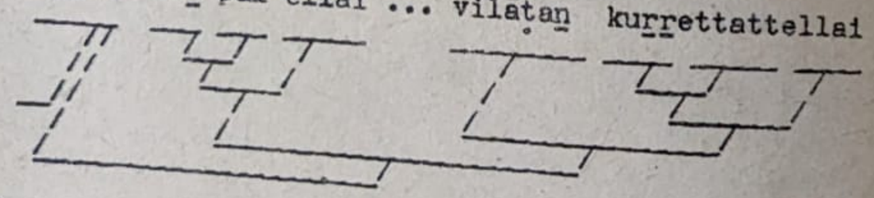
tānkal... paṭākai naṭantu kallun kalliyun nātti araiyolai ceytu koṭ.



We observe here f i v e clause-level tagmemes, and not just two immediate constituents; the formula is
+ S:pron...± Ti Seq_1:Vphr ± Ti Seq_2:Vphr ± Ti Seq_3:Vphr + P:Vphr .

13/ We may symbolize this by the following diagram:

innum ten pāl ellai ... vilāṭan kurrettattellai



Formula: Dep Cl = + Con: innum + Item:Nphr...+ Identific:Nphr

14/ In the formula given in the text, the root-morpheme, the derivational and the inflectional morphemes are taken into account; empty morphs (in Tamil grammatical tradition called cāriyai), being a part of morphophonemics, are left out of consideration in setting up the pattern formulas of Tamil words or rather affix-derived stems. We may of course set up a more detailed tagmemic formulas taking into account the derivational-inflectional morphemes (if there is a category

like this), and basing our conclusion on broader material that that of our particular text. Such a more detailed formula would read as follows:
ads = + c:R (C)V / (C)VC ± d: $ds_{1...n}$ ± di:$dis_{1...n}$ ± i:$is_{1...n}$, that is affix-derived stems are composed of obligatory core slots filled by root-monosyllables of the shape (C)V or (C)VC plus optional derivation slot filled by one or more derivational suffixes plus optional derivation-inflection slot filled by one or more derivational-inflectional suffixes plus optional inflection slot filled by one or more inflectional suffixes. In this formula, $n_d \geq 2$, $n_{di} \geq 2$, $n_i \geq 5$, that is, there are no more than two derivational morphemes in a single Tamil affix-derived word, no more than two derivational-inflectional morphemes, and no more than five inflectional morphemes. The root is of course always obligatory; derivational morphemes may occur or not e.g. in manaivi, wife, the formula is +R: man + ds_1: -ai ± ds_2 : -vi, that is manai, house, may occur without any further derivational suffix, it is a closed structure. Inflectional suffixes are, from the point of internal structure of words, always optional in Tamil (since verb-stem = imperative, a closed structure, and noun-stem = nominative in most cases). According to this method we may analyse even seemingly very complicated and long structures as let us say naṭakkiṟavarkaliliruntu, from the people who walk; the formula of this inflected form is + R:naṭ- + ds:-a ± is_1 (tense): -kkiṟ ± is_2 (rel.part.): -a + (-v-) ± dis (uyart.pl.noun): -ar ± is_3 (pl.): -kal ± is_4 (loc.): -il ± is_5 (abl.): iruntu.

15/ The occurrence of - il in this inscription is noteworthy since in the contemporary literary texts, we come across loc.suff. -in whereas - il seems to be later in literature.

16/ The occurrence of instr.suff. -āl in the inscription is noteworthy since the contemporary literary texts have usually suffix -ān and -āl is probably later in literature.

17/ The same hortative suffix - taka occurs in the Bāhūr plates of Nṛpatuṅkavarman Ep.Ind.XVIII,p.5 ff.

18/ The form inri may be segmented in several ways: first, as il + *t + i, where *-t- and -i are regarded as two past tense morphemes with a single base in a single form; or as il- + -*ti where -*ti is regarded as one complex suffix since il-, being a defective verb, has no "conjugation" in the true sense, and thus inri is n o t an adverbial participle but rather a noun formed by -*ti from the root il-; or, finally, as inr- + -i, that is, the past tense suffix -i is appended to the form inru which is the 3.p.ahr. formed from root il - by the common ahr.suffix - tu: this last solution seems to me to be the best one.

19/ In other than a "process statement" we may of course say that i - has three phonologically conditioned allomorphs: i - ~ ivv - ~inn -.

20/ Earlier, /ṟ/ may have been in contrast with /t/ - an alveolar stop */t/ versus a dental stop */t̪/; however, items like kurrettattu 41 for LT kurrēṟṟattu show that this contrast was obliterated. In most dialects of the contemporary colloquial (and in the spoken literary, formal) language, the contrast between /r/ and /ṟ/ has also been obliterated, first in intervocalic position, then elsewhere. Cf. in this connection an inscription in chalk on a black-board in a street in Nungambakkam, Madras, which the author has seen on 20.1.1964: ṭāksi nirkkum iṭam, taxi-stand, for "grammatically correct" niṟkum.

21/ Cf. L.V. Ramaswami Aiyar, Two Malayalam Phonemes, NIA 1.716-23. The difference was preserved in standard literary orthography; however, inscriptions behave differently, cf. kurrettattu 41, where there is promiscuous -rr- and -tt-, cf. Plate XIV, 4th plate - 1st side, line 41. Later, the contrast t : t̪ became probably a contrast of r : ṟ which, however, was soon obliterated in most dialects. Cf. note 20.